1870 Session of Convention
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Containing 1870, 1866, 1867
Sessions of So. Convention.

The first Session bound
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This Volume Contains
Proceedings of Conferences
for 1870 ff

Proceedings of the Second
regular session of the
Southern Christian Convention
1866

The Extraordinary Session, 1867

Proceedings of the third Quadrennial
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MINUTES

OF THE

Christian Conferences

FOR 1870,

MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY,

ADDRESSES,

AND OTHER VALUABLE MATTER.

SUFFOLK, VA:
CHRISTIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.
1871.

CONTENTS.

PAGE.

The Christians iii
Eastern Virginia Conference 1
Address of Rev. W. B. Wellons 12
North Carolina and Virginia Conference 18
Deep River Valley Conference 30
Remarks of Rev. John R. Holt 36
Georgia and Alabama Conference 38
Circular Letter of Rev. J. D. Elder 40
Valley Virginia Conference 41
North Carolina Colored Conference 41
Colored Ministers and Churches in Virginia 42
Ministerial Directory 43
Resolutions on Christian Union 44
Christian Fellowship 44
Education—Schools 45
Christian Union 45
Our Future 45
Places for Meeting of Conferences of 1871 45
Officers of the General Convention 46
Publishor's Note 47
Advertisements 47
Life Insurance Advertisements Second and third pages of cover
The Christian Sun Last page of cover
Christian Sun Book and Job Office Last page of cover
Books for Sale at the Sun Office 10

THE CHRISTIANS.

The CHRISTIANS came into existence, as a separate and distinct organization, near the close of the last century. At the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in the city of Baltimore, in 1792, Rev. JAMES O'KELLY, a prominent and leading minister in that church, with about twenty other ministers, became so dissatisfied with the government adopted, that they withdrew from the Conference, and determined to pursue their work independently. They did not, at first, contemplate a new organization, but circumstances compelled them to it, and in 1794 they met in Conference at a church in Surry county, Va., and organized on the general principles which have been steadfastly maintained until the present. They opposed the appointment of Bishops in the church with which they had formerly been connected; and they laid down, first of all, the principle that CHRIST is the only head of his church, and declared that they would have no other head. They next decided to reject all other names, except the one derived from Christ, their head; that they would have no name but CHRISTIAN; that they would have no rule of faith and practice but the BIBLE; that they would have no test of fellowship but CHRISTIAN CHARACTER; that they would extend to all the right of PRIVATE JUDGMENT, and the LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE in reference to those points of doctrine not considered essential to salvation; and that they would receive to their fellowship and communion all who love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having adopted, with great unanimity, these leading principles, the ministers set about organizing churches, and gathering into their communion all who would adopt their platform of principles and co-operate with them. The number at first was about one thousand, nearly all of whom lived in Virginia and North Carolina.

The societies organized by Rev. James O'Kelly, who was the leading spirit in the movement, and those ministers who acted with him, soon became congregational in practice, choosing their own pastors, and continuing them as long as the connection was mutually agreeable.

The organization continued with varying success until the death of Mr. O'Kelly, which event occurred in 1825, when, for a time, it seemed to retrograde until it became associated in the public mind with one or two other organizations whose existence commenced between the years of 1815 and 1830.

In the year 1847 the "Southern Christian Association" was formed, and the scattered ministers and churches, who had not affiliated with other denominations, came together and united their efforts to propagate with new zeal the general principles adopted by Mr. O'Kelly and his compeers in the Conference of 1794. The members of the organization began to increase from this date, and in 1856 the "Southern Christian Convention" was organized, and order and system, which had previously

been too much neglected, was introduced into the churches and Conferences of the denomination. When the late war between the Northern and Southern States commenced, the 'CHRISTIANS" were increasing constantly, and were enjoying a state of prosperity which they had not before known. But the war, in its continuance, prostrated all their general enterprises, scattered the membership of the churches, broke up the annual meetings of the Conferences, and laid waste the whole organization. But as soon as the war was over, and peace was restored to our distracted country, the ministers began again to gather up the scattered fragments of the organization. The churches were reorganized, the Conferences again invited to assemble for counsel and business, and the Convention which could not convene in 1862, met at Mount Auburn, N. C., in May, 1866, in regular session. It was decided at this session that the body should be called "THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH," and it was determined to prepare and publish a Declaration of Principles, which should express, in the language of the Bible, the views generally regarded as true by the organization; to adopt a Form of Government, that should introduce order and system in our labors; and to devise a Directory for Worship, which should introduce uniformity in the administration of the sacraments of the church, in its worship and in all its services. The preparation was fully and freely discussed and adopted with great unanimity. The papers were referred to a special committee for revision and publication, of which the President of the Convention was the Chairman.

The publication of the Declaration of Principles, Form of Government and Directory for Worship, placed the organization squarely upon an evangelical platform, introduced order in the business of the church and made the worship of the church uniform, and has added greatly to the strength of the organization.

The strong union sentiment which is now prevailing among all denominations, is so much in keeping with the spirit that has all along prevailed among the CHRISTIANS, that the organization is now attracting more attention from the public than ever before, and never did its prospects look so promising and the future so hopeful as at present. All the signs of the times point to the CHRISTIAN organization as the nucleus around which the great Union Church of the future is to gather when the evil of party names will be seen and shunned, the Bible become the rule to all, and brotherly love and charity shall reign throughout the whole body.

The foregoing has been written for the information of strangers into whose hands this little volume may fall. Heretofore the CHRISTIANS have not occupied their true position in the public mind. They have become associated in the minds of many with one or two other denominations with whom they have no affiliation. To set the society right before the public is one great object which influences this publication.

The proceedings of the Conferences which follow will show what we are attempting to do and what works we are engaged in.

W. B. Nelson

1870

MINUTES

OF THE

Fiftieth Annual Session of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

SPRING HILL, SUSSEX COUNTY, VA., NOVEMBER 2, 3, 4 AND 5, 1870.

SPRING HILL, SUSSEX COUNTY, VA., *November 2d*, 1870.

The "EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE" convened here to-day, in its fiftieth annual session.

The body was called to order by Bro. Thomas J. Kilby of Suffolk, President of the last session.

The Standing Secretary called the roll, and ministers and delegates were found to be present as follows:

MINISTERS—W. B. Wellons, R. H. Holland, M. B. Barrett, Thomas W. Joyner.

LICENTIATE—J. T. Whitley.

LAY DELEGATES—Thomas J. Clements, I. W. Duck, M. L. Watkins, J. P. Barrett, Newit Branch, J. B. Barrett, Elisha Everett, T. R. Gaskins, Richard Copeland, Thomas Parker, Wm. Eley, Josiah, Wilkins, Jethro Riddick, J. E. Daughtrey, Jethro Rayford, Randolph Rawls, John Oberry, E. E. Hathaway, James Butler, Petteway Johnson, Wm. N. Halstead, John T. Harris, Thomas J. Kilby, Jacob Lawshe, John T. Kitchen. [See table of statistics for full list of delegates.]

The President *pro tem.* announced that a quorum was present, and stated that the first business in order was the election of a President and an Assistant Secretary for the present session.

Bro. Thomas J. Kilby was nominated and unanimously elected President.

Bro. J. T. Whitley was elected Assistant Secretary.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. John N. Manning and Rev. C. A. Apple, fraternal messengers from the North Carolina Conference, and Rev. D. A. Long, fraternal messenger from the Virginia Valley Conference, were invited to seats in the body as deliberative members.

Each of these brethren responded to the invitation in appropriate terms.

On motion, Conference then took a recess to hear the Introductory Address, which was delivered by Rev. W. B. Wellons. The address contained much matter of interest to the denomination, and appears in full in another place.

After the public services, Conference again came to order.

On motion of J. T. Whitley, Rev. M. B. Barrett, John T. Harris and H. T. West were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises during the present session.

Bros. Joel H. Brinkley, from Cypress Chapel, and H. T. West, from Spring Hill, appeared and took their seats as delegates.

The following schedule of meetings and adjournments during the present session was presented and adopted: Meet at 9½ A. M. and adjourn at 12 M. for public service; meet at 2½ P. M. and adjourn at will.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. D. A. Long, of Harrisonburg, to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

On motion of Rev. R. H. Holland, letters were read from the Churches at Antioch, Barrett's, Berea, Bethlehem, Cypress, Hebron, Holy Neck, Jerusalem, Johnson's Grove, Providence, Spring Hill, Suffolk, and Union.

Letters were also read from Rev. S. S. Barrett and Rev. R. H. Costen, absent ministers.

Rev. C. A. Apple presented a letter from a new Church at Liberty Spring, Nansemond county, praying admission into the Conference.

A motion was made to receive the Church into the body. Explanatory remarks were made by Revs. C. A. Apple and W. B. Wellons, after which the motion unanimously prevailed.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow. Religious services by Rev. J. N. Manning.

THURSDAY MORNING, November 3d.

The Conference assembled this morning and was called to order by the President

The business of the day was introduced with singing by the congregation, and prayer by Rev. T. W. Joyner.

The minutes of the preceding day were read and approved.

Bro. Geo. J. Costen, delegate from Damascus, arrived and took his seat.

The letter from Damascus was presented and read.

Rev. M. B. Barrett moved that a committee of two be appointed to examine the records of the various local Churches.

The motion was carried, and the Chair appointed as the committee Rev. M. B. Barrett and Richard Copeland.

The Committee on Temperance made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on the subject of Temperance, have long seen and earnestly deplored the evils resulting from the manufacture, traffic and use as a beverage of alcoholic liquors. No one evil has been so disastrous in its influences and results as this; and, consequently, none should receive a closer attention. We are convinced that the Church should maintain a ceaseless vigilance against the encroachments of this formidable vice, and that those who, in manifest violation of the great laws of personal preservation and charitable consideration for others, persist in manufacturing, trafficking in and using as a beverage, intoxicating drinks, should be made subjects of censure, and, in extreme cases, of expulsion. The Church is

the proper power to deal with Church-members upon this subject. So long as members of the Church engage in practices so evidently pernicious to themselves and others, it is no matter of surprise that the world should scoff at them, and even at the religion they profess. It is, therefore, a matter of imperative necessity to maintain such a system of discipline upon the subject, that every approach of Intemperance should be thoroughly discouraged, and every offender suitably punished.

Your Committe make the following recommendations:

1st. That the Pastors and Churches be urged to maintain a rigid discipline against those who persist in making, buying, selling, and using as a beverage, alcoholic liquors.

2nd. That such members of the Conference and Church as can conveniently do so, unite with the Order of Friends of Temperance, or some kindred organization, and give their influence to the great Temperance reform.

3rd. That, wherever convenient, Temperance Societies be organized in connection with the Churches, and that females and children be invited to participate in the proceedings of such societies.

Especially do we urge Christian parents to guard their children from the influences of Intemperance, and to inculcate in their minds a wholesome Temperance sentiment.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. HOLLAND, *Chairman.*

Interesting remarks were made upon the report by Revs. J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley, and C. A. Apple, after which, on motion, it was laid on the table till after public service.

Conference then took a recess, and Rev. D. A. Long, of Harrisonburg, delivered an interesting and impressive sermon from Leviticus xvi, 34: "*This shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year.*"

After the public service, dinner was spread and partaken of on the grounds.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference resumed its labors.

The Report on Temperance, laid over from the morning session, was taken up.

It was discussed, pro and con, by Revs. J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, W. B. Wellons and D. A. Long, after which it was adopted.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. C. A. Apple to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

On motion, Rev. W B. Wellons was appointed to fill a vacancy upon the Committee on Home Missions, and J. T. Whitley and John Oberry to fill vacancies upon the Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Adjourned. Religious services by Rev. C. A. Apple.

FRIDAY MORNING, November 4th.

The President took the chair and called the Conference to order. Religious services by J. T. Whitley.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. T. J. Drumwright, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, being present, was introduced by the President to the Conference and invited to deliberate with the body.

The Committee an Sabbath Schools made their report, as follows:

REPORT.

To the Eastern Virginia Conference:—The Committee on Sabbath Schools desire to report that they are much gratified at the progress, condition and prospects of the Sunday School cause within the bounds of this Conference. But a few years ago, only a school here and there could be found, and that thinly attended and poorly managed. But within the last few years the entire membership of our Churches seem to have aroused to the importance of the work, and now nearly every Church in our jurisdiction has one or more schools in successful operation. Some Churches, actuated by the true missionary spirit, have not been content to simply sustain a school at their own place of worship, but have sent forth laborers and established Mission Schools in destitute localities. We may mention especially Antioch Church, which not only sustains a flourishing Sabbath School of from four to five hundred members at its own place of worship, but carries on three branch schools in destitute neighborhoods. We commend the example of this and other enterprising schools to the imitation of all the schools in our Conference.

From statistics before us, we learn that there are in the bounds of the Conference 18 schools, with 212 officers and teachers and 1,194 pupils.

Our past success and present condition are extremely gratifying; but let us remember that we have not yet reached as high a position as we can attain. The field is illimitable. Let us "thrust in the sickle and reap."

In concluding this report your Committee beg leave to suggest:

1st. That we personally dedicate ourselves anew to this great work, and urge all our Sunday School workers to maintain a similar consecration.

2nd. That the various schools seek out and adopt every improvement in the methods of Sunday School labor tending to increase its efficiency.

3rd. That we devote as much attention as possible to the work of Sunday School Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. WHITLEY, *Chairman.*

The report was discussed by J. T. Whitley and J. T. C. Pretlow, and unanimously adopted.

The annual reports of ministers were then called for, and reports were presented and read from Revs. M. B. Barrett, W. B. Wellons, Thos. W. Joyner, J. T. Whitley and C. A. Apple. Rev. J. N. Manning made a verbal report.

On motion, Conference went into the election of fraternal messengers to sister Conferences.

Revs. W. B. Wellons, M. B. Barrett and R. H. Holland were elected to the North Carolina Conference, and Revs. W. B. Wellons and J. T. Whitley to the Virginia Valley Conference.

On motion, Conference went into the selection of a place for holding the next annual session. Jerusalem Church, Ferry Point, Norfolk county, Va., was unanimously chosen.

The body then took a recess, and an impressive discourse was delivered by Rev. C. A. Apple, from Hebrews ii, 16–18: "*For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren; that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in*

that he himself hath suffered, being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body met at the usual hour.

The President introduced to the Conference Rev. Mr. Connelly, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and invited him to take a seat as a deliberative member.

The Committee on Education made the following partial

REPORT:

The Committee on Education, in their annual report, beg leave first to call attention to the candidates for the ministry under our charge.

Bro. J. T. Whitley, who was received a member of the Biblical class in 1868, and who became a licentiate at the session of 1869, has since that time been prosecuting his studies at Richmond College, and preaching as circumstances have favored. He has attained distinction in his classes at College, and received the medal for being the best declaimer at the close of the last session. The Chairman of the Committee, who has acted as the Treasurer and Collector of the Aid Fund, has expended up to the present time $207 in meeting his expenses. He has collected to the present time $213.15, from subscriptions made at the last Conference. There is $48.50 still due on the subscription made at the last Conference, and to be collected, and we will need about $110 more to meet his expenses to the end of the present session, at which time he will graduate in the English Department. This amount we hope will be cheerfully raised.

E. S. Barrett, who entered the Biblical class in 1868, did not appear at the last, nor has he appeared at the present session for examination; but we learn he is in the South, working to obtain the means to attend school.

Jno. T. Kitchen, who entered the Biblical class in 1868, was examined last year, and has been examined during the present session. He has made some progress in his studies, but is not yet prepared to receive license. We advise that arrangements be made during the present session to put him under the tuition of Rev. C. A. Apple the ensuing year.

J. P. Barrett, who joined the class one year ago, has studied hard and made considerable progress, but should at once be put under the tuition of Rev. C. A. Apple, in order that his studies may be systematized, and he be enabled to make suitable proficiency, in order to licensure at a future time.

Bro. N. B. H. Mountford has also joined the Biblical class since our last session, but was not able to be present for examination at this session.

J. T. C. Pretlow has recently united with the Christian Church, and has been recommended for licensure by the Church at Holy Neck. He is a young man of rather superior attainments, and evidently has the ability to become useful in the ministry. But the Committee think it best for him to prosecute his studies, and gain more familiarity with the principles and government of the Christian Church, and when he has made sufficient progress, if it be before the next session, that the Executive Committee consider and act upon his case. We further recommend that the Pastor and Church at Holy Neck give him an opportunity to exercise his gift in public, without waiting for the action of the Executive Committee of the Conference.

Bro. H. S. Dunn, a man of acknowledged piety and superior education, comes among us from the Northern Christian connection, after having made himself fully acquainted with our principles and government. He was at one time a licentiate in the New Jersey Conference, and brings good recommendation for piety from the section where he has heretofore labored. We have full confidence in his piety, sincerity, honesty and his education; and we advise that he deliver a trial sermon before the Conference, and that then the Conference consider the propriety of giving him a license to preach.

Rev. C. A. Apple and Rev. J. N. Manning, members and ministers in good standing of the North Carolina Conference, having settled and accepted pastoral charges in the bounds of this Conference, are hereby recommended for membership in this Conference.

Other matters claiming our attention in reference to schools and the subject of Education, will be the subject of a separate report.

W. B. WELLONS, *Chairman.*

On motion, the report was taken up by items.

The first item, relating to the continuation of Bro. J. T. Whitley at College, was taken up and adopted.

Bro. E. Everett presented the following resolution in reference to the method of raising the amount contemplated in the item, as well as other sums for educational purposes:

Whereas, It is annually necessary to raise a fund for educational purposes, at the sessions of this Conference; and

Whereas, Hitherto the burden of raising such fund has fallen principally upon the delegates individually; therefore,

Resolved, That the Churches be earnestly requested to assume any obligations of this character which their delegates may contract.

The preamble and resolution were adopted.

The amount of $130 was then raised for Bro. Whitley's education, by Churches and individual subscription.

The sections referring to Bros. Kitchen and J. P. Barrett were then adopted, and the sum of $176 raised to assist in their education.

The items relating to Bros. N. B. H. Mountford and Pretlow were adopted.

The section referring to Bro. Hugh S. Dunn was adopted, and tomorrow 12 o'clock, set apart for the delivery of his trial sermon.

The section relating to Revs. C. A. Apple and J. N. Manning, was taken up and adopted.

The report was then adopted as a whole.

The Committee on Church Records made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

We, the committee appointed to examine the Records of the Churches, beg leave to report:

We have examined the records of the following Churches, viz: Barrett's, Suffolk, Spring Hill, Bethlehem, Johnson's Grove, Holy Neck and Union, and we find that they are kept in regular order according to the plan adopted two years ago at Bethlehem.

We would urge upon the Secretaries of all the Churches the propriety of sending their records to the Annual Conferences for examination, thereby complying with Article VII, Chap. 4, of our Form of Government.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. BARRETT, *Chairman.*

Rev. C. A. Apple was nominated and elected to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session of the Conference.

Conference then adjourned. Religious services by Rev. W. B. Wellons.

SATURDAY MORNING, November 5th.

The President took the Chair, and called the body to order. Religious services by Rev. R. H. Holland.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion, a Committee of three on Periodicals was appointed, consisting of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. J. N. Manning and Wm. Eley.

Rev. R. H. Holland read his annual report as a minister.

Rev. C. A. Apple offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Conference be published under the supervision of the Christian Board of Publication, either in the same pamphlet with the proceedings of other Conferences belonging to the General Convention, or separately, as the Board may see fit—the expense of said publication to be borne by the Churches ordering the proceedings.

The roll of Churches was called, and 550 copies were ordered for this Conference.

The Committee on Education made the following additional

REPORT:

The Committee on Education would further report that the question of establishing a High School at Suffolk has been a subject of consideration with them through the whole year. The special committee appointed at the last session to confer and act with us had a meeting soon after the adjournment of the last Conference, and decided to have such a school at Suffolk, and appointed the Chairman of the Committee on Education, with Rev. C. A. Apple, soliciting agents, to begin as soon as a suitable location could be secured in Suffolk or vicinity. They proposed to receive shares of $50 each. The Committee have used every effort to purchase a suitable location without success, and the soliciting of stock has been deferred from time to time, until, we are ashamed to say, nothing has been done.

We now propose that the project shall be renewed, and the Chairman of the Educational Committee will offer a part of his own lot, if no other and better can be secured. If such a school as has been contemplated can be established, we have a competent member of our own Church, a graduate and a man of experience in teaching, who will take charge of it; and with it Rev. C. A. Apple's school for the education of young men for the ministry could be united. Indeed, we advise that Bro. Apple, if possible, should at once remove his school to Suffolk, and let his enterprise be prosecuted while the other branch of the school is getting ready.

We need not repeat what we have often declared, that no denomination can succeed that does not provide for the education and training of its own children. We must have schools under our control, or we can never succeed as we ought.

We advise that the Committee on Education, to be appointed at this session, be instructed to move forward at once, and that the subscription be started at this place. Let the shares in the Joint Stock Company be put at $50 or $100, and let all be encouraged to take stock who will, at this rate, to be paid in quarterly instalments. And where parties are unable to take a whole share, let two or more join together and take a share between them. With a united effort, we can and will succeed. Let the buildings be erected and furnished, and we can then go forward without further outlay at present.

This is proposed as a Conference School; but the Committee may be authorized to solicit aid from any source where it can be obtained. Our plan of government contemplates the establishment of Conference Schools. The Committee have read the proposition of Rev. Wm. S. Long in the Church paper, and would be glad to see the North Carolina Conference establish such a school as is contemplated by Bro. Long, but do not think that it would be wise for us to abandon our enterprise to unite with our North Carolina brethren in the establishment of a school at Graham.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. WELLONS, *Chairman.*

The report was discussed by Revs. J. N. Manning and W. B. Wellons, after which it was laid on the table until after preaching.

The body then took a recess, and Bro. H. S. Dunn delivered his trial sermon, from John xvii, 3: "*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.*"

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference was called to order by the President.

The Report on Education was taken up.

Remarks were offered by Rev. C. A. Apple, after which the report was adopted.

The Committee on Periodicals presented the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Periodicals report that, in their opinion, the wants of this Conference, and also the wants of the whole denomination, in this department of literature, may be fully supplied by the continued publication of the CHRISTIAN SUN, a religious journal published in Suffolk, Va., by Rev. W. B. Wellons, and well worthy the patronage of all our people and the public generally. This paper is the acknowledged organ of the Christian Church, and is designed to be a medium of communication between all our people. It supplies also very well the place of a common newspaper, devoted, too, in part, to the interests of farmers, mechanics and merchants. A column is devoted to household and domestic receipes, a column to Temperance, and a column to youth and children, making it a most excellent Sabbath School paper. There is no periodical advocating the union of all God's people, and so fully calculated to serve the purposes of the religion of the Saviour, as the CHRISTIAN SUN. We therefore recommend it to all the members and friends of our Church, and trust that its circulation will be greatly extended throughout the country.

Respectfully submitted, M. B. BARRETT, *Chairman.*

Rev. J. N. Manning spoke upon the merits of the CHRISTIAN SUN. The report was then adopted.

Rev. W. B. Wellons moved that Rev. J. N. Manning be appointed General Soliciting Agent for the proposed school at Suffolk, that the shares be $100 each, payable in quarterly instalments, and that subscriptions commence immediately.

Bro. E. Everett moved to amend by putting the shares at $50.

The vote was taken upon the amendment, which was lost.

The question then recurred on the original motion.

Bro. J. T. Whitley offered as an addition that the name of Rev. W. B. Wellons be placed upon the roll of Soliciting Agents.

The resolution was then adopted.

On motion, the minimum amount to be subscribed before demanding the first instalment, was fixed at $2,000, and the maximum $10,000.

The roll of ministers and delegates was then called to see who would take stock, and a few subscriptions were received.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. C. A. Apple, and adopted by the body:

Resolved, That the Committee on Education be instructed to take into consideration the subject of establishing a denominational school at Suffolk, in the bounds of this Conference,

and that they make such arrangements for raising funds as shall appear to them most proper, irrespective of any previous agency provided for by this Conference, and that they make a full report of their action at the next annual session of this body.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

On Education.—W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple.
On Home Missions.—J. N. Manning, I. W. Duck, W. N. Halstead.
On Sabbath Schools.—C. A. Apple. J. T. Whitley, Richard Copeland.
On Temperance.—R. H. Holland, M. L. Watkins, Wm. Eley.
Executive Committee.—W. B. Wellons, M. B. Barrett, C. A. Apple.

The Committee on Home Missions made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Missions conceive that their business is to enquire into the condition and wants of all neglected portions of our territory within the bounds of the Conference, or contiguous thereto, and to devise means for the support of missionaries in these neglected places.

We have ascertained that all the Churches in the bounds of the Conference in working order, have arranged for pastoral supplies the ensuing year, excepting Union and Holy Neck, which we hope will be able to do so without our assistance. And there is really no neglected territory in our bounds. But the Committee learn with pleasure that several new places for worship may be opened the ensuing year, if proper efforts can be put forth. A new Church is contemplated near Ducksville, Isle of Wight county. We commend Chuckatuck as a suitable place for opening a new Church. A point in Princess Anne county is open, and your Committee are fully impressed with the idea that a Church should be established in the city of Norfolk. The enterprise commenced by a member of this body at Portsmouth last year is too werk to go forward, and we can see no way to make it a success at present, and would rather advise that Portsmouth be abandoned, and the strength of our friends in the two cities be concentrated upon Norfolk.

The Church at Ivor, received at the last Conference, is not represented, and we learn is in a dependent and scattered condition. We suggest that the Education Committee confer with Rev. Robert Rawls and Rev. M. B. Barrett, and, if possible, induce the brethren to renew their efforts to secure a house of worship and permanently establish the Church.

Your Committee suggest that, as soon as places of worship can be secured, the pastors of the Churches confer together and arrange to have service at each place mentioned at least once a month, except the city of Norfolk, where service should be held once a week if possible, and that the Committee report at the next Annual Conference the success attained. We hope that every encouragement will be extended to the Missions suggested, and other points where Missions may be opened. We hope the pastors of the Churches now in existence will cheerfully co-operate together for the present in supplying the places designated, and that the Churches will cheerfully agree to let their pastors visit these places as often as may be at all convenient.

W. B. WELLONS, *Chairman.*

The report was discussed and adopted.

On motion, Conference ordered license to preach to be given to Bro. Hugh S. Dunn, and set apart Sunday morning immediately before service as the time for the ceremony.

A vote of thanks was unanimously extended to the Church and congregation at Spring Hill for their hospitality, and to the President and Secretary for faithfully discharging their duties.

The following is the report of the committee appointed to superintend the colored preachers and churches:

REPORT.

The undersigned, superintendents of the interests of the colored people connected with the Christian Church in the bounds of the Conference, respectfully report that a presbytery met early in December last, composed of the Chairman of this Committee and Revs. J. W. Wellons and C. A. Apple, and proceeded to examine Justin Copeland, a colored man and a licentiate, in reference to his fitness for ordination as an Elder. Having decided upon his fitness, we proceeded to set him apart to the office by prayer and the laying on of hands. Lewis Darden was at the same time examined and licensed to preach. There are now several Christian Churches among the colored people, and we hope the day is not far distant when a Conference can be organized upon the Christian platform, composed of colored ministers and churches.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. WELLONS,
R. H. HOLLAND.

The report was received and adopted.

On motion, the Superintendents were continued for another year.

On motion, Conference then adjourned to meet at Ferry Point, Norfolk county, Va., on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November, 1871. Religious services by Rev. J. N. Manning.

THOMAS J. KILBY, *President.*

W. B. WELLONS, *Secretary.*

REMARKS.

The session of the Conference was one of the most harmonious and profitable which it has been our privilege to attend. The most ample provision was made for the accommodation of the members and visitors, by the friends in the vicinity of Spring Hill, without regard to denomination. The business of the Conference was well matured, the preaching was spiritual and earnest, and the intercourse of the brethren pleasant. On the Sabbath a large number of persons were present. Rev. J. N. Manning preached in the morning and Rev. W. B. Wellons in the afternoon, to serious and attentive congregations.

Ferry Point, where the next session of the Conference will be held, is on the opposite side of the river from Norfolk and Portsmouth. It is a thriving town of about two thousand inhabitants, and the Church, under the charge of Rev. J. N. Manning, will most gladly welcome the Conference at the appointed time.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTOR.	LAY DELEGATES.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole Number Communicants.	Paid Pastor.	Paid Assistant.	Education of Young Preachers	Paid for Other Purposes.	Total Paid.	Sabbath Schools.
Antioch	W. B. Wellons	T. J. Clements, I. W. Duck, M. L. Watkins, J. P. Barrett	38	2	2	7	8	603	$350	$25	$49	$28	$452	4
Barrett's	M. B. Barrett	N. Branch, J. B. Barrett	1	...	...	...	...	95	50					1
Berea	W. B. Wellons	E. Everett, T. R. Gaskins	6	..	2	...	...	81	150		20	40	210	1
Bethlehem	W. B. Wellons	R. Copeland, T. Parker, Wm. Eley	10	...	1	2	5	223		175		21	196	1
Cypress	W. B. Wellons	J. Wilkins, J. Riddick, J. H. Brinkley	1	4	7	5	5	403	375		10	32	417	1
Damascus	C. A. Apple	G. J. Costen	...	3	2	3	6	87	80					1
Hebron	C. A. Apple	J. Rayford, J. E. Daughtrey	1	...	...	1	...	93	75		10	8	93	1
Holy Neck	R. H. Holland	J. Oberry, R. Rawls, U. Rawls	1	...	1	4	10	320	100	75	15	15	205	1
Ivor	R. Rawls		...	...	...	...	...	7						...
Jerusalem	J. N. Manning	E. E. Hathaway	1	2	...	...	1	40	150		20	50	220	1
Johnson's Grove	T. W. Joyner	J. Butler, P. Johnson	...	4	1	...	2	34	4			7	11	1
Liberty	R. H. Costen		...	...	...	...	...	10	5				5	...
Liberty Spring	C. A. Apple		11	...	1	...	...	19	60			10	70	1
Portsmouth	R. H. Costen		...	...	...	...	...	11						...
Providence	J. N. Manning	W. N. Halstead	5	1	...	1	...	94	250		16	20	296	1
Spring Hill	M. B. Barrett	J. T. Harris, H. T. West	2	...	...	1	3	90	100		15	25	140	1
Suffolk	W. B. Wellons	T. J. Kilby, J. Lawshe	33	1	4	1	...	145	125		35	50	225	1
Union	R. H. Holland	J. T. Kitchen	...	...	...	...	...	49	50				50	1
			110	17	21	25	40	2404	1926	275	190	306	2590	18

Post-office address of Ministers in Ministerial Directory.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY REV. W. B. WELLONS, AT THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE AT SPRING HILL, NOVEMBER 1, 1870.

I appear before you at the opening of the present session of your body, in accordance with an expressed wish of the body at its last session, to address you. And in another character: The Form of Government adopted by us makes it my duty, as the President of our General Convention to visit as many of the Conferences at their annual sessions as he can, and confer, counsel and advise with the brethren.

The first part of my duty is to address you as a member of your body, and endeavor to turn the minds of the members in a channel that may prepare them for the work before them. It is not true that the ministers or lay delegates are either fully prepared for work on their first arrival at the place appointed for the Annual Conference. The leaving of our homes and loved ones—the closing up of our year's labor—the prospect of changes in our relations—the greeting of friends from whom we have been separated for a year, and the consequent excitement in our minds, all conspire to unfit us for earnest work at the opening of the session, and one object of the annual opening address is to quiet and compose the feelings of all, and thus prepare all for the great questions to be considered and discussed during the session.

If I can at this point command your thoughts and turn them all in the same channel and direct your eyes to the same object, and make you to feel like working in co-operation, then I shall, in a very great degree, have accomplished my purpose, and the object of my appointment will have been reached.

Can I hope to accomplish this? Can I be so in earnest myself that I shall be able to impart my spirit to others, and all shall become alike interested? This is the point I shall aim at. And may the Holy Spirit help me in the effort which I put forth.

And here a feeling of embarrassment—a feeling of sadness—comes over me. I am to-day in my old native county. Twelve miles from this place I was born and reared. And there lie the remains, in the old family burying-ground, of my ancestors—my honored father—my sainted mother. And all the associations of my childhood and youth crowd upon my mind. Twenty-five years ago I left dear old Sussex a mere stripling, a youth unknown, except to a few persons in the circle of my rearing; with a limited amount of knowledge of the world, and with nothing but the rectitude of my purposes and the purity of my motives to recommend me, and the grace of the Most High to sustain me. How tremblingly, how timidly, with what fear I entered upon the work of preaching the gospel of Christ, no one but myself can ever know. I had been, almost from my childhood, impressed with the idea that God intended to make of me, poor me, a minister. The conviction grew upon me year after year, that the Lord had a work for me to do in his Church. But my confidence was small, my faith was weak, my friends were few, my education deficient, my opportunities compressed, and my extreme timidity made me tremble at every step taken and every advance made. And again and again was the suggestion made to me that the attempt could but result in a failure. With this uncertain prospect before me came the conviction, that grew deeper and deeper in my heart, that I must preach or be damned. Wo! wo! wo! is me, if I preach not the gospel, rang in my ears wherever I went. I would have relieved myself of these impressions if I could have done so. I prayed

the Lord to excuse me and send another in my place. I tried to absorb myself in other studies and turn my attention to other objects. But the more I struggled the more entangled my soul became in the overwhelming conviction that my salvation depended upon my compliance with what I then, and now believe, the Holy Ghost pointed out to me as duty.

The names of those who entered into and interpreted my exercises of mind, sympathized with me in my struggles and spake words of encouragement to me, can never be forgotten. They lifted me up when I was cast down, helped me to move off when I almost stood still, and cheered me as I went forward to the work assigned me. There lived then in one mile of this place a Christian gentleman of another denomination, whose counsel, whose advice, whose sympathy, whose friendship—disinterested friendship—I shall never cease to value. And though he has passed to the good man's home above, yet I shall always appreciate the encouragement he offered me.

But where am I wandering? Where do I stand? And what do I realize? What I see must be real! One-fourth of a century is gone, and here am I again in my old native county, and as I look out for the friends of long ago, and ask where are they? there comes from the family cemetery, where their bones sleep, the solemn, sepulchral sound, They are gone! they are gone! Only here and there is left one of the older members of society when I turned my back upon home and friends to become a preacher of the gospel of Christ. The associates of my childhood and youth are scattered and but few remain. And though I have reached only manhood's prime, with no gray hairs yet to adorn my brow and my sight undimmed, yet I come home to see a new generation around me, and as I look over the Conference I cannot avoid the feeling that I stand as a father in the Church. So many of those before me have been gathered into the Church under my poor labors, and so many of the clergy around me have been ordained to the work of the ministry by the laying on of my hands, with other members of the presbytery.

And now, my brethren, up and away to the work before us. Another year of labor is over. The successes and failures of the past year have all been recorded. And we come to improve plans arranged at our last session and to devise new ones. And we will be wise if we can devise means that will open and expand our field of usefulness as a separate and distinct organization from all others. If we cannot devise ways of usefulness and do good in co-operation, then there is no need for our organization. We are organized to do good—to make better the world in which we live.

The CHRISTIAN organization, of which this Conference forms a part, has a peculiar work to do. Our fathers set out with the idea that Christ is the only head and Law-giver to his Church; that the name which fully expresses the relation of his people to Him is the only proper name for his followers; that the revelation of God to the world is the only proper rule of faith and practice; that a christian life and character is the only legitimate test of christian and church fellowship; and that in doctrines not considered essential to the salvation of the soul, the liberty of conscience and the right of private judgment should be extended to all.

With these views they opened their hearts and the doors of the church to all who accept Christ Jesus in his Divine character as the Saviour and Redeemer of the world and trust in the merits of his atoning blood for salvation.

This has been the foundation upon which we have stood from the commencement of our existence until the present. We are not, therefore, the mere builders up of a sect or party. We have no peculiar doctrines of our own to advocate. We stand upon the great evangelical platform laid in the formation of the Episcopal or Church of England, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, from which organization we sprang. To controvert the opinions and doctrines of other denominations is not a part of our business. We are striving to bring into co-operation the good of every sect and party, and to build up an organization which shall embrace in its fold all who stand upon the common platform which is occupied by all the evangelical denominations around us. It is doctrines not considered by any, essential to salvation, about which we disagree and which leads to controversy and contention.

Our organization was formed for the purpose of effecting a union among

all the followers of Christ, and if our practice in any particular has not tended to union, then it is because it has not been consistent with the platform of principles adopted.

We do not seek to promote union at the expense of the truth or at the sacrifice of any fundamental principle of the gospel. We are the advocates of liberty, but not that liberty which may be converted into licentiousness. We require as essential to the very existence of christian fellowship, correct views of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit, of the Atonement, of the Resurrection from the dead, and of future Rewards and Punishment. These are the essential doctrines of the gospel—doctrines which lie at the very foundation of our Christian hope and of the Church of Christ. We seek to promote union by cherishing all these essential doctrines, and in all other doctrines, rites, ceremonies and practices not considered essential to the salvation of the soul, we extend the largest liberty, in faith and practice.

In this way we propose to unite the scattered members of the flock of Christ. With this platform upon which to stand, all evangelical denominations can come together. In our organization Christians of every opinion and sentiment, who embrace as true the fundamentals of religion, may become united. The Methodist, the Episcopalian, the Presbyterian and the Baptist may each become connected with our organization without changing his views upon any of the essential doctrines of the gospel. It is not in accordance with the principles of the CHRISTIAN organization to require any thing as essential to Christian and Church fellowship, except such as is required by the very essentials of religion, and without which no one can be a Christian at all.

That we should be opposed by any true follower of Christ has always been marvellous to me. That sectarians and party bigots should rise up against us has never been strange. The propagation of the principles which we hold always puts the craft of sectarians in jeopardy, and a selfish motive prompts to opposition. The only opposition which can legitimately stand against us, must be when our practice becomes inconsistent with our avowed principles.

I will not deny but that in some instances in our history and in individual cases our practice has not been entirely consistent with our platform of principles. Such a case occurred in our early history, when several of the fathers refused to recognize the baptism of believers by immersion as authorized by the word of God. This step separated the Church and led to a division in our ranks which it took a quarter of a century to heal.

And even at the present all of us are hardly prepared to follow out the practical workings of our principles.

Indeed, for one to stand upon our liberal platform and carry out in his practice the principles which we avow as ours, he must be lifted up so far above sectarianism that he can breathe an atmosphere purified by charity and sanctified by God's presence. No narrow-hearted sectarian bigot can be thus elevated. Oh! I pity the thousands who have never enjoyed the luxury of breathing the pure atmosphere of Christian liberty and charity —who, though they possess many virtues are destitute of the most essential of all—*charity*.

We live at a period in the history of the Church—the great Church of our Lord Jesus Christ—when this great question of Christian Union is being agitated, examined and discussed with a spirit and determination which has not before been developed. This is bringing the CHRISTIAN Church more prominently before the public than ever before, and is throwing upon us every day increased responsibilities.

Are we prepared for the work before us? Are we ready to assume the increased responsibility thrown upon us by the circumstances which surround us and the age in which we live? These are the questions which should much concern us. When we were small, unknown, uncared-for and wielded but little influence, we were content with small things. But we are no longer unknown and uncared-for. And we are no longer without influence and power. The eyes of the Christian world are turned toward the position which we occupy, and as the Christian Union feeling widens and deepens in the public mind, we shall be brought more and more prominently forward—shall become better and better known, and

our influence will become greater and greater, and the responsibility resting upon us will become weightier and weightier.

Are we, my brethren, laying the foundation upon which we are to stand as an organization when the responsibilities of the future, surely coming, shall be upon us?

We meet to consider and debate questions of this sort. A conference of this character is not merely for social intercourse, for devotional exercises, for domestic arrangements and the following out of a long established routine of business. We must get away from this idea and now bend our energies upon the opening of new plans and arrangements for the responsible future.

This leads me directly up to my duty as President of the General Convention of the Church. I am with you to confer upon the great questions of preparation for the future; to counsel you in the course you should pursue, and advise you of the best means to adopt in order that you may be successful in your labors.

Then let us take up several distinct questions one by one. First of all the fostering in our hearts a warmer spirit of devotion, and greater love for the cause of God and the work of the Church. We must love the Church of Christ more. We must love the service of God more. We must more fully consecrate ourselves to the work of doing good in the world.

We have too long contented ourselves with the experimental part of religion. We have all the time been longing to feel good, to get happy, to weep and rejoice freely. We have depended almost entirely upon the revival feeling in the Church to prompt us to do our duty. Protracted meetings have been too much depended upon. We must change our ideas, our practice and our plans in this particular. We must learn that religion is practical as well as experimental; that we must work as well as pray and sing and shout. That our work must be regular, constant, and be performed from a sense of duty. We receive the pardon of sin, the witness of the Spirit; are adopted into God's family and become experimental Christians by the exercise of faith. But we go forward in a Christian life, grow in grace and our spiritual strength is renewed by work in the vineyard of the Lord—the Church. God's vineyard is his Church, and every one adopted into his family is called upon to work in his Church, to work in his own sphere and in co-operation with others. To improve his individual talent and to get greater spiritual gain by joining with others in labor. Faith and works must thus be joined together, and the man of God thus goes on toward a state of perfection. 1

Again we must become more self-denying, more sacrificing and more liberal in giving. Too long have we satisfied ourselves in doing things convenient, and offering no sacrifice incongenial with our feelings. And we have held to the wrong idea of giving only what we could spare. Away with such sacrifices and such giving. We must learn self-denial in the Bible school, and present our first offering unto the Lord, and give until we feel it. Giving only what we can conveniently spare brings no reward and secures no interest in Heaven. It is giving when it requires self-denial, when we feel it, that secures reward—an hundred fold in this world, and in the world to come life everlasting. We must work more, practice self-denial, be more sacrificing and give a great deal more to all the works of the Church than we have ever done. And away with the idea that we are going to be burdened or grow poor thereby. It is not giving to the Church and to God that burdens us. It is not giving to the Church that makes us poor in worldly goods. It is pandering to our selfish desires that burdens us. It is keeping up with the world that burdens us. It is withholding and hoarding that which we should cast in the treasury of the Lord, that makes us poor. Our education, our ideas, our opinions must all be changed, and then we shall go forward and have abundantly more of religious joy, and have more of creature comforts and live happier in every way. If the Scriptures do not teach us that self-denial is rewarded in this as well as in the world to come, then I do not understand the plain, simple words of Jesus. 2

Then we must learn to reverence God's ministers more. Brethren in the ministry, we must learn to respect, reverence and love one another more. And the laity of the Church must make the ministers more worthy of reverence. Our young men must be educated. Their minds must be ex- 3

panded, their ideas enlarged, and they must be prepared to work efficiently as priests in the Lord's house. And they must be enabled to give themselves to the work of the Church, to keep out of secular employments and to live above the drudgery of business life. We must no longer send out men to preach who are destitute of the education necessary to command respect among the intelligent and refined in any community. And away with the idea that education begets pride and nurtures selfishness. 'Tis ignorance and want of education that fosters pride and makes a minister selfish. Our young men must be educated, must be taught to make no other calculation but to give themselves wholly to the work of the ministry, to keep out of secular business, and to avoid the cares and responsibilities of a family, at least until they have established a character and opened a field of usefulness sufficiently large to sustain themselves and others dependent upon them.

We must turn our attention to the establishment of schools and the securing of means for the education of our young men for the ministry. And not only for our young preachers, but for our sons and daughters. If we give our children to the sects to educate, we must expect to see them turned out sectarians in most cases. We must educate our own children in our own schools and under the influence of our own teaching. I do not advise this because of sectarian feeling or denominational peculiarity. But that we may the more successfully implant the principles of Christian charity and liberty in their hearts. Let the subject of education stand before you occupying a very prominent position in the proceedings of this body.

Home Missionary work must receive more attention at our hands. Our ministers must not all be so closely confined to their pastoral work. There must be both pastors and evangelists, stationed and travelling preachers. Oh! as well as I love the pastoral work, I do so often yearn for the opportunity of going abroad and opening the way for establishing churches in localities where the Christians are but little known. I beg that the Conference will turn its attention to the work of Home Missions, and that the Committee appointed to report on this subject will maturely consider it.

Sabbath School work—the training of the young for God, for Heaven and the Church—is receiving much more attention than formerly among us. But we may make still further advances with profit to ourselves and the Church. Encourage this, the greatest, grandest work of the Church, brethren, in every way. Let the ministers all preach, teach and work in the Sabbath School.

The cause of Temperance will claim your attention. I commend to the Committee on this subject the considering of some plan that will be practical in the removal, to a greater extent, of this mighty evil from the doors and altars of the Church. We must not send out young men to preach until they have studied and committed themselves against the practice of manufacturing, buying, selling and using intoxicating beverages as a common drink. This is an alarming evil in the Church, in our country, in the world. And as a Christian organization we must set our faces against it, and require our ministers and official members of the Church, if not all, to refrain from the use in any way, other than as a medicine prescribed by a physician when we are sick, of all intoxicating liquors. Oh! God, how my heart mourns over the ravages of intemperance. And how surely does moderate drinking and traffic in the article lead to intemperance in most cases. And how clean our hands, as ministers of God and Christian men, should be washed from the foul sin of giving encouragement to the drinking usages of society.

A few closing thoughts and I will no longer consume the time of this body.

We come here as Christian men—ministers of Christ, prominent laymen in the Church, and the representatives of those principles which we have inscribed upon our banner and thrown to the breeze. Let us remember that we are the representative men of the Church—that we are the servants of God—and in our intercourse with one another let us cultivate a brotherly spirit and show the world how we love one another. And we are to find homes among the families of this community and this neighborhood. Let us enter the families of those whose hospitality may be extended to us, as Christian men, and when our session is over let us go away to our homes with our Christian characters untarnished by any undue lightness, foolish jesting, unbecoming tale-telling or other unguarded conversation. One of

the besetting sins of the clergy seems to be the habit of telling tales to produce merriment and laughter. Let us, my brethren, guard against this. Go into the families of the neighborhood to make them better and to commend our holy religion. Make the heads of the family happy—the children, the hired helps and all. Strive to impress upon the hearts of all the beauty, the loveliness and the joy of religion and the pleasantness of God's service.

The pastor of this Church and his brethren have invited us to hold our annual session here with a desire to receive benefit as well as to impart it. Let us endeavor to so act and so speak as to exercise a good influence upon the minds of all with whom we are brought in contact.

And when our work is done and the order for adjournment has been announced, with hearts tendered, and with increased zeal for God, his Church and his cause, let us return to our homes prepared to do battle for the right, and so to live and so to act as to secure a peaceful conscience while we live, a peaceful home in which to die, and the reward of well-doing in the Kingdom of God on high.

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-fifth Annual Session of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

UNION CHAPEL, HALIFAX CO., VA., NOV. 18, 19, 21 AND 22, 1870.

UNION CHAPEL, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA., *November 18th*, 1870.

The North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference met, pursuant to adjournment, at this place to-day, and was called to order by Rev. Sol. Apple, President of last session.

The rolls of ministers and churches were read, and the following responded:

Elders.—T. J. Fowler, Sol. Apple, Alfred Apple, Alfred Iseley, W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons, A. G. Anderson, J. N. Manning, C. A. Boon, W. T. Walker, E. W. Beale, W. G. Clements and P. W. Allen.

Churches—through their delegates:

Union, Va.—E. P. Tuck and C. H. Winfree.

Union, N. C.—Jno. G. Garrison and Charles Maynard.

Wake Chapel.—N. J. Fuquay and M. B. Huneycut.

Damascus—M. B Cole and T. G. Lindsey.

New Providence—Austin Whitsitt, W. W. Staley and Jos. Holt.

Apple's Chapel—R. C. Scott and L. R. Apple.

Salem Chapel—Col. H. Marshal, Jno. W. Marshal and H. F. Samuel.

Mt. Zion—Wm. Lynch.

Bethlehem—Peter T. Klapp.

Hines Chapel—Ezekiel Hines.

Concord—Jno. G. Garrison.

Pleasant Grove, Va.—Jno. W. Boyd and W. B. Farmer.

Mt. Pisgah—Edward S. Hudson.

O'Kelley's Chapel—C. S. Holoman and A. Moring.

Pope's Chapel—M C. Winston.

Hanks.—Thos. Petty.

Mt. Auburn.—Thos J. Haskins and Stephen P. Read.

Pleasant Hill, Chatham.—M. Murchison.

A quorum being present, Conference proceeded to business. Religious exercises conducted by Rev. A. Iseley.

The Chair announced the first business in order to be the election of officers.

Conference proceeded to ballot for President, which resulted in the election of A. G. Anderson, who, upon taking his seat, addressed the

Conference in a few appropriate remarks, thanking his brethren for the confidence reposed in him, and asking their assistance in the discharge of the duties imposed upon him.

On motion, E. W. Beale was then chosen Assistant Secretary.

On motion, Revs. W. B. Wellons and M. B. Barrett, fraternal messengers from the Eastern Virginia Conference, and W. R. Brown, fraternal messenger from the Deep River Conference, were invited to seats as deliberative members, who, upon taking their seats, addressed the Conference in appropriate remarks.

On motion, a committee of three, composed of Rev. A. Apple and Bros. C. H. Winfree and E. P. Tuck, were appointed on Religious Exercises.

On motion, the letters from the Churches were read and referred to the Committee on Home Missions.

On motion, Conference agreed to meet each day at 10 o'clock A. M.; adjourn at 12 M. for religious exercises; convene at 2 P. M. and adjourn at will.

Conference adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference convened, the President in the Chair.

Rev. W. S. Long offered the following:

Resolved, That Conference appoint a committee of three to report during this session concerning the circulation of the Holy Scriptures.

The resolution was adopted, and Revs. W. S. Long and A. Iseley and Bro. Ezekiel Hines were appointed a committee in accordance with the resolution.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That Conference appoint a committee of three, whose duty it shall be to report during the present session on matters recommended the Conference by the General Convention.

The Chair appointed Revs. W. S. Long and Sol. Apple and M. C. Winston a committee in accordance with the above resolution.

On motion, the places of absentees on the Committee on Temperance were filled by the appointment of Rev. W. T. Walker and Bro. J. G. Garrison.

On motion, Revs. A. Apple, T. J. Fowler and A. Iseley were appointed fraternal messengers to the Deep River Christian Conference; Revs. Sol. Apple, J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long and E. W. Beale to the Eastern Virginia Conference; and Rev. W. S. Long to the Valley Virginia Conference.

On motion, a committee of three, composed of Rev. J. N. Manning and Bros. C. Maynard and John W. Marshal, was appointed on Church Records.

On motion, the ministers were requested to hand in their ministerial reports Monday during the morning session.

On motion, Rev. Sol. Apple was appointed to deliver an annual address to-morrow at 12 o'clock M.

Conference then adjourned till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. Sol. Apple.

SATURDAY, November 19th, 1870.

Conference convened and was called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. W. B. Wellons.

Proceedings of yesterday read and approved.

On motion, a committee of three, composed of Revs. Jno. N. Manning, A. Apple and Bro. Austin Whitsitt, was appointed on Periodicals.

The following preamble and resolutions were introduced by Rev. W. S. Long, and in accordance with a resolution therein contained, the Chair appointed the following committee Revs. W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons and W. T. Walker:

WHEREAS, The graves of our beloved and departed brethren Rev. Lewis Craven, Rev. Josiah McCulloch, Rev. G. G. Walker and Rev. Jesse H. Cole remain without any appropriate monuments to perpetuate their memory; and

WHEREAS, This Conference desires to manifest its love for them and its appreciation of their labors; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That Conference erect suitable monuments of the same kind at their graves at as early a day as practicable, as a feeble testimony of its regard for their many virtues.

Resolved, 2. That a committee of three be appointed to receive all funds collected for said purpose, apply them to the erection of said monuments, and report their action to our next Conference.

Resolved, 3. That the committee be authorized to appoint an agent in each local church, whose duty it shall be to collect from friends whatever may be paid by them for this purpose and forward the same to said Committee by the first of June, A. D. 1871.

Resolved, 4. That the ministers composing this Conference be requested to bring this matter before their churches, and give it whatever encouragement in their power.

Resolved, 5. That Rev. W. R. Brown be requested to present this subject to the brethren of his conference and solicit from them contributions for said purpose.

Bro. Wiley J. Winston, from Oak Level appeared and took his seat.

Bro. Stephen P. Read offered the following:

Resolved, That this Conference express its determination to continue its efforts in the future until monuments have been erected to others who have fallen in the ministry.

The Committee on the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures submitted the following

REPORT:

Your Committee, to whom was referred the subject of the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures, beg leave to report as follows:

We have no official papers of any kind referred to the Committee, but some of us have, at different times, received the Christian congratulations of the Secretary of the American Bible Society, with assurances upon the part of the officers and managers of the same, of their earnest desire for the co-operation of our people in the great interests of the Bible cause. We are glad to imform you that in many parts of our country new and liberal methods of supplying the destitute with the Word of Life have been put into successful operation. Still we are assured of an extensive destitution of the Holy Scriptures in many, and indeed, most parts of our wide-spread country. And we cannot be too much impressed with the importance of making yet further inquiries into this subject, and of stirring up ourselves and our people to increased liberality in furnishing the necessary means to aid in presenting the Bible to every man, woman and child in the land. Here is one platform on which all can stand; one cause in which all can unite; one great interest which we can combine to promote. And doing so with the right spirit, with the right motives, and in dependence upon the blessing of Heaven, the gates of hell shall not prevail against us.

The importance of the American Bible Society to the cause and kingdom of Christ cannot be overestimated. And we rejoice to believe that this is the firm conviction of all classes of evangelical Christians; and that no be-

nevolent institution is held in higher esteem than it, engaged as it is in its most important work. Every consideration of Christian duty impels us to give it our earnest and increased support. The present condition of our own country and the world demans this.

In conclusion, your Committee desire to offer for adoption the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That we will do all we can to encourage and secure an abundant and universal circulation of the Word of God among the people of this and all other lands, believing that it is the duty of the Church of God to supply the world with the Holy Scriptures.

Resolved, 2. That we recognize in the American Bible Society the most efficient instrumentality in the dissemination of God's Word throughout the States amd Territories of our country.

Resolved, 3. That we continue heartily to co-operate with the accredited Agents of this Society in circulating the Holy Scriptures "without uote or comment" im all our congregations.

Resolved, 4. That we recommend more systematic and diligent efforts to ascertain the extent of Bible destitution among us and also increased liberality in providing the necessary means to supply the same.

W. S. LONG, *Chairman.*
A. ISELEY,
E. D. HINES.

The report, after being discussed by Revs. W. S. Long and J. N. Manning was adopted.

On motion, Conference adjourned to listen to the annual sermon, which was delivered by Rev. Solomon Apple from 1st Corinthians, xiv., 40, and was listened to with marked attention.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met. President in the chair.

A letter from Rock Hill Church, Stokes county, N. C., was read, asking admission into Conference, which, on motion, was received and enrolled on the list of Churches, and Bro. W. D. Linville, delegate from the Church, was invited to a seat in Conference.

The Chairman of the Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted the following

REPORT:

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools ask leave to report:

This subject has received more attention in our Conference the last year than it has during any preceding year. The ministers have taken hold of the work in good earnest. There may be some that have remained indifferent, but there are few such. Schools have been opened in almost every congregation. Some have not succeeded well, but most of them have prospered and accomplished much good. Encouraging statements have been from time to time sent to your Committee from different sections of our Conference, showing the deep interest taken in this work and the good resulting therefrom to the Church.

— schools have been reported with — teachers and —— scholars. There are other schools from which your Committee has received no definite information. When we think of our former comparative neglect of this important work, and now see the zeal manifested in it and the glorious results achieved by Sabbath School instruction, we have abundant reason to thank God and take new courage.

1. Many children that would doubtless grow up in ignorance are receiving intellectual culture in the Sabbath School. In the midst of wide-spread desolation we must, as true patriots and christians, provide for the destitute among us in this particular as far as we can. Many are taught in the Sabbath School to read the Word of God, that would never acquire the knowledge. Others there are, sadly neglected by those whom God and nature have constituted their proper guardians, now sharing these benefits.

2. The Sabbath School is a powerful auxiliary in controlling the morals of the rising generation. It keeps children from profaning the day that God has said we must keep holy, from idle, sinful company, and from forming habits that ruin thousands of our race.

3. It is pre-eminently the object of the Sabbath School instruction to unfold to the minds and hearts of the young the pure Word of Life, to show them their lost condition in sin and to point them to "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." In this the Sabbath School is doing wonders. *It is the Church at work to save the children from death.* It is the Church taking up the language of the blessed Jesus and calling aloud, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Of the wants now seen and felt by those engaged in this work, we have thought proper to mention three:

1. We need books and papers suited to our youth. There are many good books published by the American Sunday School Union and the American Tract Society, which are used in our schools and in part meet our demands. But we need others, in which the liberal principles of our Church are plainly set forth. A Catechism is now in course of preparation by a member of this Conference and will be published soon. We must inculcate our doctrines and principles. We must teach them to our children that they may grow up in love with our Church and in sympathy with all our operations. We must publish papers for the use of our schools as soon as practicable.

2. Incompetent Superintendents and teachers have in some instances retarded our cause. This must be remedied. Pastors and parents should look after this matter. None should be appointed to these important stations except pious, earnest, self-denying persons, who are possessed of sufficient literary attainments.

4. The parents of our Sabbath School children do not co-operate with those engaged in this work as they should do. Some seem to think the instruction received by their children in the Sabbath School quite sufficient for their moral and religious training. They seem to consider themselves relieved of all responsibility. We must show all such that none but themselves can discharge God-imposed obligations. We may assist, but we cannot relieve them.

Your Committee is pained to announce the failure of the Sabbath School Convention connected with this Conference to meet at the appointed time. This failure, however, is to be attributed to the military operations in the State at that time. We would ask your body to allow the Convention an opportunity to meet during your present session.

W. S. LONG.

The report called forth earnest and soul-stirring addresses from Revs. W. S. Long, J. N. Manning, W. B. Wellons, A. Iseley and P. W. Allen, after which it was unanimously adopted.

On motion, Conference adjourned to Monday, 10 o'clock A. M.

Prayer by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

MONDAY, November 20th, 1870.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. President in the chair.

Roll being called, Conference proceeded to business. Prayer by Rev. W. R. Brown.

The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

Ministers read and handed in their Ministerial Reports, which contained an account of their labors during the past Conference year.

A letter from the Church at Pleasant Hill, Johnson county, was read and referred to the Committee on Home Missions.

On motion, the President appointed Rev. Sol. Apple and Bro. J. G. Garrison to fill the vacancies on the Committee on Home Missions.

The Chairman of the Committee on Temperance submitted the following

REPORT:

Although this subject has claimed the attention of many of the greatest minds who have lived; and although it has from time to time called forth earnest and energetic efforts on their part to stay the tide of intemperance constantly sweeping its thousands to perdition, yet these efforts have proved inadequate to the task, and this gigantic evil is still dealing heavy and destructive blows upon society, destroying the pleasures of domestic and social life, darkening the national councils and impeding the progress of religion.

The Order of the Friends of Temperance, recommended to the members of this body at its three last sessions, has made but little or no progress within our borders during the past year, owing, in part, to its not having received that support and co-operation which it should have received from the members of this body.

Your Committee would, therefore recommend a more hearty co-operation with that Order, and a more earnest effort in favor of this subject upon the part of all.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. WALKER, *Chairman.*

The report called forth earnest addresses on the subject from Revs. Solomon Apple, A. Apple, W. G. Clements, W. S. Long, C. A. Boon and W. B. Wellons, and pending the discussion Conference adjourned to 2 o'clock.

During the intermission a funeral sermon was delivered by Rev. Jno. N. Manning, from Psalm cxvi, 15.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met. President in the chair.

The Report on Temperance was taken up, and after addresses from the President and others the report was unanimously passed by a rising vote.

The Chairman of the Committee on Church Records submitted the following report, which, on motion, was received, and, after some discussion, was adopted:

REPORT ON CHURCH RECORDS.

The very limited number of Church Records submitted to the inspection of Conference prevents your Committee from making a very comprehensive report. The great majority of Churches wholly disregard our rules of government in this respect. Very few of the Churches keep their records in a regular or systematic form. Most of them have omitted some things prescribed for their observance. For instance, only a few Churches keep their roll, as directed by Conference. The system of assessment, by which the burdens of the Church are equalized and made to rest alike upon all, are generally neglected, or at least there are few records of their action in this particular. Again, the manner of summoning and trying offendes is irregular and not in accordance with our government. As nearly all the records are faulty in some way, we thought it unnecessary to mention any by name.

We recommend that Conference instruct and urge the Churches to observe the forms and rules prescribed by this body and the General Convention.

Your Committee would barely allude to the new Church in Forsythe county, N. C., which petitioned for admission into your body at its present session, as not having submitted or accompanied with its petition for admission, any form of organization or record of its proceedings. This we think very irregular.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING, *Chairman.*

On motion the report of the Educational Committee was made the special order of to-morrow, 10 o'clock.

Conference adjourned till to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. C. A. Boon.

TUESDAY, November 21st, 1870.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by the President.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The special order being the Report of the Board of Education, the Chairman of the Board submitted the following report:

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The General Convention at its last session came to the conclusion that our denomination was not prepared to erect a College, nor would the wants of our people likely justify an effort in this direction for some time to come, as the patronage to such an institution must be small until a sufficient number of preparatory schools be successfully established and attended to give support and permanence to a College of high grade, the support of high schools always being dependent upon the lower schools. The Convention therefore recommended that the Conferences immediately use such means as may be available for the purpose of establishing schools of a fair grade, at which all our children and young men can be prepared for a university. When all our Conferences shall have successfully astablished high schools at which young men may fully prepare for the various business pursuits of life, and for teaching satisfactorily in the primary schools, we may proceed to the erection of a College of high grade.

As the proposition of Rev. W. S. Long, of Graham, N. C., published in the *Christian Sun* Nov. 4th, 1870, will likely meet the present wants of our people, we recommend it for your adoption. It is in the following words viz:

"I propose, 1. To allow the denomination the use of my buildings in Graham for a school, and I agree to keep them in good order and suitable condition.

2. That the school be arranged to afford instruction to young men preparing for the ministry, and at the same time conduct a high school in which others may qualify themselves for teaching and other pursuits.

3. That the Conference employ one competent instructor and place him in the school with myself as joint principal.

4. That one-third of the tuition fees go towards the salary of the teacher the Conferences may employ. The remainder to myself as wages and for keeping up repairs to the premises.

5. That this arrangement continue five or ten years, or until a school can be established elsewhere.

6. That each Conference acceding to this proposition elect two directors,

whose duty it will be to arrange a course of study, text-books, tuition, &c., and exercise a general oversight of the school.

There are two young men belonging to the Biblical Class who give promise of much usefulness—Bros. Wm. W. Staley and Peter T. Klapp. They possess good minds, unblemished characters, and talents capable of extended cultivation. We recommend that an effort be immediately made to raise sufficient means to place them at school at once, and that they be kept there until their education is complete.

We further recommend that young men of promise and piety, who are inclined toward the ministry, be encouraged to cultivate their gifts, and be furnished with means, when necessary, to prosecute their studies.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING, *Chairman.*

The following were elected directors to fill the place mentioned in the Report of the Board of Education and to collect and disburse funds subscribed for the education of Wm. W. Staley and Peter T. Klapp: Revs. J. W. Wellons, A. Iseley and W. S. Long.

On motion, the roll of Churches was called and the following amounts were pledged by the persons whose names are annexed, for the education of the two young men above mentioned:

O'Kelly's, C. S. Haloman	$10 00
Pope's, M. C. Winston	10 00
Hanks', Thos. Petty	10 00
Mt. Auburn, Thos. J. Haskins	10 00
Union, Va., E. P. Tuck	10 00
Union, N. C., Charles G. Maynard	5 00
Wake Chapel, N. B. Honeycutt	10 00
Damascus, T. G. Lindsey	8 00
New Providence, A. Whitsitt	25 00
Apple's Chapel, L. R. Apple	5 00
Salem Chapel, H. Marshall	5 00
Mt. Zion, Wm. Lynch	10 00
Bethlehem, A. Iseley	10 00
Hines, Ezekiel Hines	10 00
Lebanon, Sol. Apple	10 00
Concord, J. G. Garrison	5 00
Pleasant Grove, Va., J. N. Boyd	5 00
Mt. Pisgah, E. Hudson	5 00
Pleasant Hill, M. Murchison	5 00
Rev. A. Isley	5 00
Charles Maynard	5 00
A. Apple	5 00
Rock Hill, P. W. Allen	5 00
J. W. Wellons	5 00
	$203 00

Conference then adjourned to 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met. President in the chair.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed on Statistics, to report to the Standing Secretary as soon as possible after the adjournment of Conference. The Chair appointed Revs. W. S. Long, E. W. Beale and W. T. Walker.

The Committee on Home Missions submitted the following partial report, which was received and adopted :

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Home Missions, respectfully submit the following partial report:

After having surveyed the field of operations for the past year, we find that some of the appointments that were made at our last session have not been fully met, and that some of the Churches have not held their regular Quarterly Conferences, of which we submit the following:

J. W. Wellons failed to attend Fuller's regularly.

Solomon Apple failed to attend Reece's regularly.

A. Apple failed to attend Midway regularly.

C. A. Boon failed to attend at Moore Union.

Brown's Chapel, Gunter's and Parks' Stand were to be looked after by D. T. Deans and W. T. Walker.

W. G. Clements failed to attend Pleasant Grove, N. C., regularly.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. WELLONS,
SOL. APPLE,
JOHN G. GARRISON.

The Committee submitted the following additional report, which was also received and adopted :

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions beg leave to report that they have made the following arrangements to supply the Churches with preaching for the ensuing year, viz:

E. W. Beale to preach at Mt. Zion, Damascus, New Providence, King's School-house and Union, N. C.

J. W. Wellons to preach at Liberty, Good Hope, Pope's Chapel, Oak Level, Mt. Auburn and Fuller's.

W. T. Walker to preach at Hines' Chapel, Salem Chapel and Mt. Bethel.

A. G. Anderson to preach at Concord and Byrd's School-house.

C. A. Boon to preach at Wake Chapel, Pleasant Springs, Moore Union, Shallow Well and Zion.

W. S. Long, Principal of Graham High School and Pastor at New Providence.

A. Iseley to preach at Union, N. C., Shallow Ford, Apple's Chapel and Bethlehem.

W. G. Clements to preach at Christian Chapel, New Elam and Hanes' Chapel.

S. Apple to preach at Pleasant Grove, Va., Lebanon and Mt. Pisgah.

D. T. Deans to preach at Liberty School-house.

T. J. Fowler to preach at Hanks' Chapel.

J. N. Farrell to preach at Pleasant Hill, Chatham county, and Pleasant Grove, N. C.

A. Apple to preach at O'Kelly's Chapel, Martha's Chapel, Midway and Union, Va.

J. N. Manning transferred to E. Virginia Conference.

C. A. Apple transferred to E. Virginia Conference.

D. A. Long transferred to Valley Virginia Conference.

R. C. Tuck not heard from.

J. W. Hatch to preach at Antioch and New Bethel.

J. K. Gibson without work.

A. Franks without work.

H. B. Hayes without work at his own request.

R. G. Tinnen without work.

W. H. Frands to preach at Pleasant Hill, Johnson county, Smyrna and Pleasant Union,

P. R. Jones not heard from.

L. Lambeth not heard from.

P. W. Allen, Principal of Allen's Institute and to preach at Rock Hill.
W. H. Moffit not heard from.
C. Allen, assistant at Midway.
L. C. Madison not heard from.
Thomas Truit without work.
Newbern unsupplied.
Reece's unsupplied.
Brown's Chapel, Gant's Chapel and Parks' Stand, D. T. Deans and W. T. Walker are requested to look after.
All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. WELLONS,
SOL. APPLE,
J. G. GARRISON.

The Committee on Periodicals presented the following report, which was, on motion, received and adopted:

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

The Committee on Periodicals think that the *Christian Sun*, published by Rev. W. B. Wellons in Suffolk, Va., is well worthy of the support of all our people and the public generally. We think that its patronage ought to be very greatly extended, not only on account of the zeal, intelligence and assiduous labors of its publisher, but also on account of its real value and the pleasure and profit it imparts to the Church and every community into which it is introduced. It is designed to be a medium of communication between all our people, especially in the Southern States, and to supply every want that can possibly be reached by a religious journal. Its tendency is to thoroughly indoctrinate its readers in the principles of the Christian Church, and likewise to serve the purposes of a common newspaper in giving whatever of current news may appear necessary to satisfy the enquirer. Besides a column is devoted to Agriculture, for the benefit of farmers and planters; a column to Domestic and Household Recipes; a column to Temperance, and a column to the instruction of children and youth, thus making it a most desirable Sabbath School paper.

We would recommend that renewed and energetic efforts be made by every member of this body to extend the circulation of this, our Church organ, throughout our bounds, and that the fraternal messengers to this Conference be requested to co-operate with us in extending the patronage of the *Sun* as much as possible within the bounds of their respective Conferences. We believe that the prosperity of the Church and the success of our various enterprises will be just in proportion to the patronage given to our denominational organ, as there are no other means available by which a deep interest can be excited in the minds of the people in respect to important matters constantly claiming our attention.

Suitable efforts might not only result in extending the circulation of the paper, but in lessening its price to present subscribers. Could the number of subscribers be doubled, the paper might be furnished at nearly a fourth less than at present. It is, therefore, very greatly to our advantage in every respect to labor earnestly in extending the circulation of the *Christian Sun*.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING, *Chairman.*

On motion, the proposition submitted by Rev. W. B. Wellons, to print the minutes in a pamphlet with the minutes of other Conferences, was accepted.

The Committee appointed to report on matters recommended the Conferences by the last Convention, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was received and adopted:

REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONVENTION.

The last meeting of the General Convention, which took place in Suffolk in May last, did, by resolution, request the Conferences to organize Home

Missionary Societies, having auxilliary societies connected with each local Church, so as to embrace our entire membership, and train our people to systematic benevolence.

Your Committee would recommend, in accordance with this action of the Convention, that this Conference proceed to organize a Missionary Society in connection with this Conference, to be called the Home Missionary Society of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference.

We would also recommend that each Church be requested to organize auxiliary societies and send up yearly their contributions to the parent society.

We would recommend further that the parent society and each auxiliary society shall have a President, Secretary and Treasurer; and that the payment of twenty-five cents per year shall constitute a person an annual member.

W. S. LONG, *Chairman.*

On motion, the Secretary was requested to correspond with the ministers who failed to report themselves according to the rules in our Form of Government.

The Chair appointed the following Committees:

On Education—Revs. W. S. Long, Solomon Apple, E. W. Beale.

Home Missions—Revs. J. W. Wellons, A. Iseley and A. Moring.

Sabbath Schools—W. S. Long, E. W. Beale, C. A. Boon.

Temperance—W. T. Walker, A. Apple and D. C. Murchison.

Conference Committee—A. Iseley, W. S. Long and E. W. Beale.

On motion, the Chairman was added to the Committee on Education.

On motion, the next session of Conference was ordered to be held with the Church at Mt. Zion, Orange county, N. C., and Rev. J. W. Wellons was appointed to deliver the annual sermon, and Rev. P. W. Allen alternate.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered the following resignation and petition of transfer:

Having accepted a ministerial call to Churches within the bounds of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference, I most respectfully resign the office of Standing Secretary in your body, and ask to be transferred to that Conference. I most carnestly assure you that my interest in your welfare and prosperity shall in no wise abate, and that my warmest prayers shall continue to be offered for your success and happiness. And when my duties in the Eastern Virginia Conference shall have been performed, if then living, I hope to return to you, warm in heart and animated by the same Spirit which has always characterized the endearing relations which exist between us.

Most truly yours,

J. N. MANNING.

The resignation was received and the petition granted.

On motion, Rev. E. Beale was elected Standing Secretary, in place of Rev. J. N. Manning, resigned.

On motion, Revs. J. W. Wellons and H. B. Hayes were appointed to superintend the Colored Conference within the bounds of this Conference.

On motion, Revs. J. W. Wellons, A. Apple and Sol. Apple were appointed fraternal messengers to the M. P. Conference of North Carolina.

The following were appointed the officers of the Missionary Society of this Conference: Rev. W. S. Long, President; Rev. P. W. Allen, Secretary; Rev. A. Iseley, Treasurer.

The thanks of Conference were tendered to the officers of the Conference for the faithful discharge of their duties, and to the friends at Union for their kindness in entertaining the members of Conference.

REPORT.

The Ordaining Presbytery appointed by your last Conference to set apart Bro. W. G. Clements to the order and office of an Elder in your body, beg leave to report that by mutual consent they met Bro. Clements at Providence and performed the duty enjoined, on the second Sunday in January.

A. ISELEY,
E. W. BEALE.

Conference adjourned to meet with the Church at Mt. Zion, on Friday, 10 o'clock A. M., before the third Sabbath in November, 1871.

Prayer by Rev. J. N. Manning.

A. G. ANDERSON, *President.*

J. N. MANNING, *Secretary.*

E. W. BEALE, *Assistant Secretary.*

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixth Annual Session of the Deep River Valley Conference of North Carolina,

HELD AT

OLDHAM'S GROVE, N. C., SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30 AND OCTOBER 1.

OLDHAM'S GROVE, MOORE COUNTY, N. C.,
Thursday, September 29th, 1870.

According to appointment, the Deep River Christian Conference met at this place to-day in its sixth annual session.

The President of last session, Elder A. S. Nelson, took the chair and called the Conference to order.

The former Secretary called the roll of ministers and delegates, and the following answered to their names:

Elders Present—W. R. Brown, T. G. Craven, J. R. Holt, J. S. Lawrence, W. W. Lawrence, A. S. Nelson, J. B. Ausley.

Elders Absent—Joseph Albright, Anderson Craven, W. M. Craven.

Licentiates Present—William Brady, William Dicken, Lewis Parks and J. A. Scott.

Licentiates Absent—H. A. Albright, S. L. Craven, M. L. Hurley and D. B. McLeod.

Lay Delegates—G. W. Parks, M. V. Brooks, A. D. Leonard, Leander Brady, Cornelius Shields, Solomon York, H. T. Moffitt, W. W. Hayworth, Daniel Brown, S. H. Way, Bennett Freeman, E. C. Martin, George Parks, William Nelson, Thomas Riddle.

The President announced as the first business in order the election of officers for the present Conference.

A committee of three was appointed by the President to report a suitable list of officers. Said committee retired for a short time for consultation, and then reported, recommending for President Brother Hugh T. Moffit; for Vice President, Elder A. S. Nelson; for Secretary, Elder W. R. Brown; for Assistant Secretary, J. A. Scott.

The report was received and adopted unanimously.

Conference was then fully organized; and being ready for business, the session was opened with prayer by Elder J. R. Holt.

On motion the letters from the Churches composing this Conference were called for and referred to the following committee, viz: J. A. Scott, G. W. Parks and William Brady, for examination.

The President proceeded to appoint the usual committees:

On Ordination—Elders J. R. Holt, A. S. Nelson, J. S. Lawrence, T. G. Craven and W. R. Brown.

Ministerial Character—C. H. Welch, W. W. Hayworth, S. H. Way and Solomon York.

On Education—J. R. Holt, W. R. Brown, J. A. Scott and A. S. Nelson.

On Sabbath Schools—William Brady, George Parks and W. W. Lawrence.

On Ministerial Supply—G. W. Parks, C. H. Welch, W. W. Hayworth, Solomon York, Daniel Brown, George Parks, Thos. Riddick, Bennett Freeman and Cornelius Shields.

On the Examination of Candidates—Elders W. R. Brown, T. G. Craven, W. W. Lawrence.

On Periodicals—J. S. Lawrence, A. S. Nelson, W. H. Hicks and Lewis Parks.

On Temperance—T. G. Craven, S. H. Way and A. W. Leonard.

On Statistics—M. V. Brooks, W. H. Hicks, A. D. Leonard and E. C. Martin.

On Religious Exercises during the present Conference—J. B. Ausley, C. H. Welch and G. W. Parks.

On motion, 10 o'clock to-morrow was appointed as the hour for deliving the annual address by Elder J. R. Holt, the appointee of last Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Singing, and prayer by Elder A. S. Nelson.

FRIDAY MORNING, September 30th, 1870.

Conference convened according to adjournment.

Singing, and prayer by Elder J. S. Lawrence.

On motion, the annual address was then delivered, and was listened to with marked attention. Subject—*The Church.*

On motion, Elder Holt was requested to furnish a copy of his address for publication. He remarked that it would be impossible to furnish a copy of that address, but consented to prepare an address to accompany the minutes.

A letter from the Church at Cool Spring asking admission into this Conference—referred.

The standing rules for the government of Conference were read and adopted without amendment.

On motion, Conference adjourned till 2 o'clock.

Two O'clock P. M.

The names of H. A. Albright, Andrew Yow and G. H. Black were enrolled.

On motion, the letters from the different Churches were read by the Secretary.

The Committee on Education made the following

REPORT:

As the subject of Education is of great importance, your Committee have sought to ascertain what suggestions might be made, best adapted to its encouragement among ns as a Christian people. After due thought we would recommend—

1. That all parents attend carefully to the education of their children; especially that kind of instruction which leads to morality and religion.
2. That all our membersnip, without distinction of age or sex, read and *study* the Bible as an efficient means of moral and intellectual progress; that they seek to acquire literary knowledge, and encourage it, even attending to the higher branches of learning, when convenient, that their own enjoyment and usefulness may be increased in this progressive age.
3. That the ministers among us strive diligently for thorough and correct scholarship; and that they seek, in all useful learning, to be in advance of the most favored and forward of those to whom they minister.
4. That, as soon as practicable, the Educational Committee of this Conference take steps for the location and establishment, at an early day, of an institution of learning within our bounds, adapted to our wants as a people.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. HOLT.

After a brief discussion, the Report on Education was unanimously adopted.

The Committee to whom was referred the petition of the Church at Cool Spring, made a report somewhat unfavorable to the reception of that Church at present; but after different brethren had given their views, Conference concluded that there were no serious difficulties, and, on motion, that Church was unanimously received into Conference.

The Committee on Periodicals made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Periodicals, beg leave to make the following report:

We think it would be well for the Christian Conferences of our State to look well to their interests, and as soon as possible to establish a press at or near the seat of government, for the printing and publishing of a religious newspaper, religious books, tracts, &c., as the necessities of our people might require.

In the absence of such help, for the present we recommend to the favor of our brethren the patronage of the *Christian Sun*, at Suffolk, in Virginia. We would be even more urgent in our recommendations if the *Sun* were published on terms more moderate and to sustain comparison with other religious papers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. LAWRENCE, *Chairman.*

On motion the Report on Periodicals was received, and, after some discussion, adopted.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following

REPORT:

We take pleasure in saying that there has been a number of Sabbath Schools in the bounds of our Conference in successful operation; and we

recommend to all our ministers to organize a Sabbath School at each Church in the Deep River Conference on the opening of next Spring, as we deem the Sabbath School system a great auxiliary to the religion of Christ. May God hasten the happy day when all parents will say, "Children, come and let us go to the Sabbath School."

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM BRADY, *Chairman.*

On motion, the Report on Sabbath Schools was received and adopted.

On motion, Conference went into the selection of a place for holding next annual session, and as petitions had been sent up from several of the churches, it was determined by ballot. The election resulted in favor of Shiloh, Randolph county, as the place of holding the next session of Conference, commencing Thursday, 12 o'clock, before the first Sunday in October, 1871.

On motion, the ministers were called upon to make a report of their ministerial labors.

On motion, brother J. A. Scott was elected Standing Secretary of the Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Singing, and prayer by Elder T. G. Craven.

SATURDAY, October 1st, 9 o'clock.

The President in the chair.

Religious exercises by Elder W. W. Lawrence.

The Committee on Temperance made the following

REPORT:

We, the Committee to whom was referred the subject of Temperance, beg leave to make the following report:

It does not require labored effort to convince us that all intoxicating drinks as a beverage are evil and only evil continually, and hence that Conference should use its influence in admonishing the brethren not to fall in with the habit which must quench the Good Spirit and destroy vital piety; that our ministers make at least one address to the churches of their charge during the Conference year on this important subject.

Respectfully submitted,

T. G. CRAVEN, *Chairman.*

The above report was received and discussed at some length by A. S. Nelson, T. G. Craven, A. W. Leonard, H. A. Albright and J. A. Scott; after which, on motion, the report was unanimously adopted.

The Committee to examine Candidates for License reported that they had no application for license, and the report was received and adopted.

The Committee on Statistics made their report. [This report is seen at page 35.] The report was received and adopted.

The Committee on Character and Standing of the Ministry made their report, which, by order of Conference, will not appear in the published minutes.

Recess was then taken till 1 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Committee on Ordination made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Ordination find no pressing necessity for the ordination of any to the Eldership at present.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. HOLT, *Chairman.*

On motion, the report was received and adopted.

The Conference Committee reported that no Conference had claimed their attention during the past year.

On motion, the same Conference Committee are to continue in office during the next year. The Committee consists of Elders J. R. Holt, W. R. Brown and J. S. Lawrence and brethren Isaac Lawrence and Wm. Brown, Sr.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the brethren and good friends around Oldham's Grove for the very kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the Conference during its present session.

This resolution was passed by acclamation.

On motion, Elder J. N. Ferrell, a member of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, was invited to take a seat in this body and participate in its deliberations.

The case of Lewis Parks, who was elected to a restricted membership by the last Conference, came up. The ballot being spread whether he be retained or not, he was not retained a member of Conference.

The Committee on Ministerial Supplies made the following

REPORT:

CHURCHES.	ASSIGNED TO.
Parks' X Roads	W. W. Lawrence and Wm. Brady
Pleasant Ridge	W. R. Brown and J. A. Scott
Shiloh	A. S. Nelson and S. L. Craven
Union Grove	W. R. Brown and S. L. Craven
Pleasant Grove	J. S. Lawrence and Wm. Brady
Acorn Ridge	A. S. Nelson and M. L. Hurly
Brown's Chapel	A. S. Nelson and M. L. Hurly
Shady Grove	W. W. Lawrence and D. C. McLeod
New Hope	T. G. Craven and D. C. McLeod
Christian Union	T. G. Craven and J. A. Scott
Cool Spring	J. S. Lawrence and S. L. Craven
Oldham's Grove	J. B. Ausley
Salem	W. M. Craven and J. A. Scott

On motion, the Report on Ministerial Supplies was reeeived and adopted, except so far as it relates to the assignment of Elder T. G. Craven, who was excused at his request.

On motion, the Conference Committee will meet with the Committee of Supplies at Shiloh, on Saturday before the third Sunday in this month (October) at three o'clock P. M., for more mature action of the committee touching the support and varied labors of our ministers.

On motion, it was decided that this Conference appoint two fraternal messengers to visit the North Carolina and Virginia Conference in its annual session to convene at Pleasant Grove, Va.

Elders J. R. Holt and W. R. Brown were appointed.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at the time and place appointed.

Singing, and prayer by Elder J N. Ferrell.

H. T. MOFFITT, PRESIDENT.

A. S. NELSON, VICE PRESIDENT.

W. R. BROWN, *Secretary.*

J. A. SCOTT, *Assistant Secretary.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Received.	Removed.	Died.	No. of Communicants.
Acorn Ridge				11
Brown's Chapel				15
Cool Spring	12		1	11
Christian Union	2	2	2	46
New Hope				12
Oldham's Grove		5		32
Parks' X Roads	16		1	70
Pleasant Grove	27	9	2	160
Pleasant Ridge	17			80
Shiloh	1	1		78
Salem	1			11
Shady Grove				39
Union Grove	6			57
	85	17	6	622

SUBSTANCE OF THE

REMARKS OFFERED BY REV. JNO. R. HOLT,

AT THE OPENING OF THE DEEP RIVER VALLEY CONFERENCE.

THE CHURCH.

A church is an association of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world. The first churches were established for the mutual help of the members against idolatry. Their meetings were usually held at private houses, and, in a measure, in secret, for fear of the Jews and other violent persecutors. They had, at first, no houses publicly and professedly devoted to the new religion. None would have been tolerated. The contest would have been too unequal between the crowded and numerous synagogue and the infant Church of Christ. The rage of the multitude must have proved fatal to Christianity, unaided by the prudent arrangement of secret social worship. Thus whilst the Apostles and their successors, who were defended miraculously according to promise, proclaimed publicly the truths of the gospel, the humble resident believer could best and most profitably enjoy his hopes and comforts by a meek and unpretending retirement.

The Saviour admonished his diciples against a course of recklessness that might endanger his cause and their own lives. "Behold," said he, "I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye, therefore, wise as serpents and harmless as doves." And again, "Cast not your pearls before swine; lest they trample them under their feet and turn again and rend you." It was only when they were in the legitimate discharge of their duty, when the Spirit bade them go, and teach and labor, that they could realize the presence and help of the same Spirit telling them, in the hour of trial, what or how they should speak. It was when a more vigorous contest arose between the unholy powers of earth and the simple and saving truth of God, when God intended to present a more lively and impressive testimony, when he chose to show his great power, that he stirred up his servants, brought them forth before the world and the rulers of this world, and made them feel how precious the promise, "Lo, I am with you," and gave them the ascendance over their enemies.

Their private social worship, however, gave them great advantages in learning; for while they enjoyed ample security against attacks from without, they had in their midst, members of their own body, those who had higher gifts and callings. These were the Elders, who were ordained in all the churches. To them was committed the oversight of the flock. The public teachers were in most danger. Their addresses met with opposition and their arguments aroused the hasty and revengeful passions of jealous rulers and their vile minions.

But the truth must be proclaimed, even at the hazard of life. The greater the danger, the brighter the testimony. If nothing else could move to relenting and to sympathy, a good man must fall, innocent blood must be shed. The Spirit sometimes made easier conquest, but the churches were mainly planted amid sufferings and blood. Thus matters went, until churches were established in every portion of the world. They were not consolidated into one church, assuming importance and claiming power and a right to rule in temporal affairs, but each found enough to do in attending to religion and the spiritual welfare of the membership.

An unfortunate day was that for the church when a different order of things was introduced—when a superiority in the Christian ministry was claimed by ambitious prelates and recognized by the church. It was the

inauguration of the reign of antichrist in the church itself; and his polluted footprints have been seen ever since befouling the temple of God. Each individual church had a right to take the Scriptures, as they could obtain copies, and govern themselves in all things connected with the faith and practice of religion. And it was a sad day when they chose to obey the dictates of men and to follow the lead of other churches.

It is to say but little of what might be said, to declare that the consolidated church has proved, in every case, to be the fostermother of persecution and violence, deception and falsehood, infidelity and crime. It is owing to this inseparable character, that all national church establishments have proved so despicable a commodity wherever adopted—even a curse to the people who have tolerated them for any length of time.

This phase of church organization has always been represented by a human head. Losing sight of the only proper head, the divine captaincy of Christ, they have meanly conspired the propping up of deceitful, wicked, designing demagogues and tyrants as their great head-light and guide.

It will, indeed, be well for such, if all that has been misdone by them may be set to the score of ignorance. If the Lord shall wink at them and not inflict merited vengeance, well will it be. It cannot be a small crime to pervert the truth, to deceive humble, confiding souls. If the prophet in his day could cry, "Wo unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" "of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy," who, under the gospel, hath excused the enormity of common sinners, by practicing such wholesale delusions and impostures and destroying thousands of unsuspecting souls.

But a better light has been reserved for the nineteenth century. It is now clearly seen that power, even in the hands of a good man, may be abused; and that the Church of Christ needs no wordly power to enhance its prosperity and happiness. The union of spiritual with temporal regal authority has for many centuries been the fruitful source of evil to the church and to the world. Neither would Protestants be safer to trust than Papists in a like situation. All are fallible men, liable to the same weaknesses and the same errors. Let us not forget the slow degrees by which Romanism commenced its progress; the protestations of affection; the specious appearance of sanctity throughout, until power of the most dreadful kind was secured—power sustained by an ignorant superstition. And after it was secured, when was the grasp ever relaxed? When did the puppet successor ever cry enough?—enough of wealth and of power. New demands and more haughty pretensions were urged at every step until the *keys* became more powerful and influential than the *door* itself.

With all past history before them, it might be expected that Protestants would not, could not disagree; but we find antichrist busily at work among them also. The bare existence of the sects is sufficient to arouse suspicion that power would be as dangerous with them as it has been with Papists. Each of these has a tendency to consolidation. A sort of rivalry is going on, and each is anxious to succeed. The leading object seems to be to perpetuate and give comparative importance to a name—to gain numbers and thereby secure power under a name. Each strives to be just what is censured in Romanism. Catholic would be a pleasing title to all these rival church parties.

We, as a people, have seen the evils of party names and the danger of consolidation. We prefer co-operation in conferential and other church assemblies. We discover no right and no necessity for law-making. As Christians we do not pride in a separate existence. We say to the sects, get together—this is your duty; cease your contests; select some common ground of union; give us notice and we shall be near. We strive for primitive ground. We feel that we are engaged in the last reformation. None further will be needed. Consummate this and the Saviour's prayer is answered. Let us hold to this position. Let us advocate this cause, being assured that it must, it will succeed.

Minutes of the Georgia and Alabama Christian Conference.

The Conference convened on Monday after the first Sabbath in October, 1870.

Rev. Jubilee Smith was unanimously chosen President, and Bro. Wm. Collier was elected Secretary.

Letters were called for from the churches. Liberty, Pleasant Grove and New Hope responded. Christian Union and Providence were not represented by delegates or letters, but their pastor, Rev. Jubilee Smith, reported their condition and stated that they were living in peace and in harmony. Rev. J. D. Elder had visited the churches during the year and preached to good effect.

Rev. Jubilee Smith and Rev. J. D. Elder were the only Elders present. Bro. C. W. Gregg, a licentiate, and the following delegates were announced present: Henry Knight, from Liberty; Griffin Willingham and Drewry Childers, from Pleasant Grove; Thomas Elder and J. W. Elder, from New Hope.

On motion, Bro. Jewryston Smith was received a member of the Conference, and Bros. Clay Knight, Thomas Tinley and Wm. Burrer were elected honorary members.

The following committees were then appointed:

On the Standing of the Ministry—Griffin Willingham, Jewryton Smith and Thomas Elder.

On the Standing of the Churches—H. Knight, C. W. Gregg and Drewry Childers.

On Itinerancy—J. D. Elder, Jewryton Smith and J. W. Elder.

On Sabbath Schools—Jubilee Smith, Wm. Collier and J. D. Elder.

The Conference then adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

During the recess Rev. Jubilee Smith preached an excellent sermon from Luke xii., 49, 50, 51.

Two O'clock P. M.

The Conference convened and resumed business.

The committee appointed at the last session on the Standing of the Ministry, reported:

REPORT.

Your Committee beg leave to report that they have, through the delegates, investigated the standing of the ministry of this Conference and we find them all in good standing.

J. L. Neece, who was a licentiate, has been excommunicated, and is no longer a member with us.

G. WILLINGHAM, *Chairman.*

The Committee on the State of the Church made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee, beg leave to report that we find the churches all in good order. Some of them have been blessed with revivals and additions, while the losses by death and removal has not been large. The churches all sustained a great loss in the death of our much loved brother, Rev. W. M. J. Elder, who died on the 11th of March last, and the churches in Georgia sustained a great loss on the 30th of March last in the death of Bro. G. B. Smith, who was struck by lightning and killed instantly. Bro. John Cole and Sisters Elizabeth Childers and Jane Pool, all active members of the church, have also passed to their rest in the skies.

H. KNIGHT, *Chairman.*

The Committee on the Itinerancy then reported:

REPORT.

The committee report that there has never been, in the history of our church in this country, a time when there was a greater want for an itinerancy in our Conference. The committee recommend that Rev. John D. Elder be requested to visit the churches in Georgia twice during the Conference year, and that Rev. Jubilee Smith visit the Churches in Alabama twice during the year, and that the churches pay the expenses of these brethren and pay for the time lost by them from their home business. We would further recommend that Bro. W. J. Manning be licensed to preach. He is not present, but his position in the church and his general Christian character is good. We also recommend that Bro. C. W. Gregg be set apart to the office of Elder in the church, it being the wish of the brethren where he has labored, and he having preached a sufficient time to test his ability to be useful in the church.

Respectfully submitted,

JEWRYSTON SMITH, *Chairman.*

Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools:

REPORT.

We, the Committee on Sabbath Schools, would report, recommending each church connected with this body to persevere until a Sabbath School has been permanently established. In this way great good may be accomplished in the church. The Sabbath School work is the great work of the Church of Christ at present.

J. D. ELDER, *Chairman.*

On motion, the next Conference was appointed to be held with the church at Pleasant Grove, Ala., to convene on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1871.

Rev. J. D. Elder was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Bro. C. W. Gregg his alternate.

Bro. W. J. Manning was then elected a licentiate in the Conference.

The ordination of Bro. C. W. Gregg was then ordered.

On motion, it was ordered that the minutes be sent to Rev. W. B. Wellons, to be printed with the minutes of the other Conferences.

The following brethren were appointed stewards in the churches, whose duty it is to collect funds from all who may be willing to contribute for the support of the ministry: J. W. Elder for the Valley; Thomas Elder for New Hope; Green B. Knight for Liberty; G. Willingham for Pleasant Grove; W. K. Glenn for Providence Chapel; Tenderson Smith for Christian Union; Jewryston Smith for Millerville.

The Conference then adjourned.

CIRCULAR LETTER,

By REV. J. D. ELDER.

Dear Brethren—By the appointment of the President of the Conference, I address you through this medium.

Under the blessing of God we have been permitted to assemble in Conference again and much important business has been transacted. Many who formerly met with us are no more among mortals. Tney have passed from the labors of earth to their reward in Heaven. In the ranks of the laity death hath been busy, and among the ministry also. Rev. W. M. J. Elder died at his residence in Chambers county, Ala., in March last, and Rev. L. E. Barr died in Texas. Bro. Elder had been a minister in the Christian Church for forty-six years. He was with the church of his choice in all its struggles for the faith once delivered unto the saints. During his life the charge of heresy and heterodoxy was hurled against the church from every quarter. At one time W. M. J. Elder, Jacob Calahan and George L. Smith were compelled, from principle, to withdraw from those brethren who had embraced the views of the late Alexander Campbell, who styled themselves reformers. They called a Conference, reorganized, and lived to see the church they loved once more in a thriving state. But alas! they are all gone. They all died in the faith. And let us take courage. The same ship that conducted them safely home will land us on Canaan's shore.

I rejoice that I have lived to see the day when the church has taken such a position as forever to put to silence our traducers and slanderers. Our Principles and Government have been published and are now before the world. The publication of our Principles has put a quietus upon all the slanderous reports put on foot against us by designing persons. We have ever been the advocates of Christian union and brotherly love; and though we have been misrepresented and slandered, let us not cultivate in our bosoms any feeling of revenge, but run the Christian race with patience.

The vacancy which death hath made in our ranks will be filled up by young men of promise who are ready to march forward and take the places of those who have fallen in the work. Bros. Gregg, Sorrell and Manning all stand very fair where they are known. Bro. Sorrell recently made his first effort and made a good impression.

Brethren, we must rally and show more industry and more energy in our work. Let every minister put forth new efforts and put on new zeal for the cause of his Master, and every church maintain wholesome discipline and exercise caution and prudence in its business, and our good work will go forward.

Avoid all discussions, brethren; shun all unnecessary controversy. Speak evil of none. Do good to all. Act toward others in all cases as you would have them act toward you. Let your light shine before the world, and thus shall we win souls to Christ, build up the cause of Zion, promote Christian union on the earth, and end our course with joy.

VALLEY VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

This body, which was so much weakened by the secession of 1869, met in annual session at Antioch, Rockingham county, on Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1870, The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. A. Long, and during the meeting Rev. G. W. Woods preached with good effect. Only Bros. Long and Woods among the ministers were present. Four churches we learn were represented, one a new church which had recently been organized by Rev. D. A. Long. The brethren were all greatly encouraged by the meeting.

We expected a full report of this Conference for publication, but recent events in the Valley has produced some confusion, and the indisposition of Bro. Long prevented him from preparing the minutes for publication.

John Burkholder presided in the Conference and Rev. D. A. Long acted as Secretary, with Calvin Hinton assistant.

The time and place for the next meeting of the Conference was not agreed upon, but will be announced in due time. The future for our cause in the Valley is not without much hope.

NORTH CAROLINA COLORED CONFERENCE.

This body held its last session in Raleigh on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of October, 1870.

Rev. Samuel Fay called the Conference.

Rev. J. Jeffreys was elected President, and Rev. H. B. Hayes, of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, was requested to act as Secretary.

The following are the Standing Committees :

On Education—Samuel Foy, Wm. M. Hayes, B. Young, and Lewis McCullen.

On Home Missions—Norfleet White, P. Bullock, S. Foy, P. Faucett, T. Wilson, and M. Watson.

On Sabbath Schools—R. Preddy, N. Horton, J. Mann, and T. Bullock.

On Temperance—E. Horton, R. Cook, and M. Watson.

Wm. M. Hayes, J. Jeffreys and E. Horton were appointed the Executive Committee.

41

Henderson Hazel and Joseph Mason were ordered to be ordained Elders, and Zimri Graham, Thomas Bullock, Richard Johnson and Noah Horton were received as Licentiates.

The next session of the Conference will be held at Burchett's Chapel, Warren county, N. C., to commence on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1871.

This Conference has 22 Churches and 16 ministers, and is in a thriving condition.

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Virginia

Rev. Justin Copeland, a colored preacher, whose post-office address is Suffolk, Va., has charge of three or four churches in Nansemond and Isle of Wight counties. Lewis Darden and Tabitha Briggs have also been licensed to preach.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY.

EASTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

MINISTERS.	P. O. ADDRESS.
S. S. Barrett	Ferry Point, Va.
Robert Rawls	Ivor, Va.
W. B. Wellons	Suffolk, Va.
M. B. Barrett	Ivor, Va.
R. H. Holland	Carrsville, Va.
J. N. Manning	Norfolk, Va.
Thomas W. Joyner	Berlin, Va.
C. A. Apple	Suffolk, Va.
R. H. Costen	Portsmouth, Va.
Jesse T. Whitley	Richmond, Va.
Hugh S. Dunn	Suffolk, Va.
P. S. P. Corbin	Houma, La.

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

Thomas J. Fowler	Mebaneville, N. C.
Alfred Iseley	Company Shops, N. C.
Solomon Apple	Milton, N. C.
Alfred Apple	Red Bank, Va.
H. B. Hayes	Raleigh, N. C.
Anthony Franks	Raleigh, N. C.
A. G. Anderson	Anderson's Store, N. C.
D. T. Deanes	Aspen Grove, N. C.
Chastien Allen	Oxford, N. C.
J. W. Wellons	Franklinton, N. C.
J. N. Farrell	Lockville, N. C.
Wm. H. Franks	Raleigh, N. C.
E. W. Beale	McCray's Store, N. C.
Wm. S. Long	Graham, N. C.
C. A. Boon	Pittsborough, N. C.
Wm. T. Walker	Monticello, N. C.
P. W. Allen	Salem Chapel, N. C.
John W. Hatch	Pittsborough, N. C.
R. C. Tuck	Palestine, Texas.
R. G. Tinnen	Cedar Grove, N. C.
W. G. Clements	Morrisville, N. C.
J. K. Gibson	Company Shops, N. C.
Thomas Truitt	Company Shops, N. C.

DEEP RIVER VALLEY CONFERENCE.

Wm. R. Brown	Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Jahn R. Holt	" " "
Joseph Albright	" " "
John S. Lawrence	" " "
W. W. Lawrence	" " "
T. G. Craven	" " "
Wm. M. Craven	" " "
John A. Scott	" " "
Malcom Hurley	Carthage, N. C.
A. S. Nelson	Carter's Mills, N. C.
Anderson Craven	Reed Creek, N. C.
Daniel McLeod	Auman's Hill, N. C.
Wm. Brady	" " "
J. B. Ausley	Jonesborough, N. C.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY—CONTINUED.

VALLEY VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

MINISTERS.	P. O. ADDRESS.
D. A. Long	Harrisonburg, Va.
G. W. Woods	New Market, Va.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

Henry Gant	Fountain Head, Tenn.

GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

Jubilee Smith	Americus, Ga.
John D. Elder	Milltown, Ala.
C. W. Gregg	" "
W. J. Manning	" "
W. J. Sorrell	West Point, Ga.

POSITION ON CHRISTIAN UNION.

The following preamble and resolutions adopted by the General Convention of the Christian Church at its last session, held in May, 1870, at Suffolk, Va., gives the position occupied by the CHRISTIANS on the question of Christian Union:

WHEREAS, The members of the General Convention of the Christian Church are profoundly impressed with the belief that harmony in the Church of Christ is essentially necessary to the true interests of our holy religion; therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That we appeal to all true Christians, of every denomination, to aid us in the great work of promoting that "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" which should prevail among the members of the body of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the Head.

2. *Resolved*, That while we freely concede the inalienable right of every man to exercise private judgment and liberty of conscience in matters of religion, yet we recognize the necessity which demands that certain fundamental doctrines should be believed and acknowledged by every one seeking admission into the visible church.

3. *Resolved*, That, in our opinion, there is a sufficient community of feeling and belief among evangelical denominations to form a basis of union, without binding the consciences of men in those matters which are but of secondary importance and are not essential to the constitution of the church instituted by our Lord and established through the instrumentality of his apostles and ministers.

4. *Resolved*, That we call upon every true friend of our holy faith, everywhere, to come out openly in favor of EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN UNION—the only safeguard of Protestant Christianity, and the only means of promoting that spiritual unanimity and perfect peace which are the crowning glory of the Gospel.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

The CHRISTIANS extend the hand of Christian fellowship and brotherly love to all who have been born of the Spirit, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and work righteousness.

EDUCATION.

The Christians have no High School or College, at present, entirely under their control. "Graham College" and "Holy Neck Female Seminary," denominational institutions, were both suspended during the late war, and have not been resuscitated.

Rev. Wm. S. Long is conducting a school of high grade at Graham, N. C.

Rev. D. A. Long has a select classical school at Antioch, Rockingham county, Va.

Rev. C. A. Apple has a select school at Level Green, Nansemond co., Va.

A High School will go Into operation at Suffolk, Va., during the year, with Joseph King, A. B., as Principal.

We have one young man preparing for the ministry at Richmond College, two with Rev. C. A. Apple at Level Green, two with Rev. Wm. S. Long at Graham, N. C., and several others pursuing their studies in private schools or at home.

CHRISTIAN UNION.

The position taken by the CHRISTIANS on the subject of Christian Union is drawing towards them several other denominations, and affiliation with others, to some extent, will probably be the result. The preamble and resolutions presented to the Convention at Suffolk, by Rev. C. A. Apple, and which were fully discussed and unanimously adopted, as an expression of the feelings and sentiments of the body on this subject, have been extensiveiy read and commented upon by the religious press of the country, and in the present state of feeling in the country in reference to the union of the followers of Christ, have met with much favor.

OUR FUTURE.

The future of the CHRISTIANS presents a very hopeful aspect to all who have watched and are watching the signs of the times. The organization may never become overwhelmingly large, but it will so infuse its spirit into other organizations as to exercise a powerful influence in our country. This fact inspires the feelings and cheers the hearts of those who plead the cause of Christian Union so earnestly, and who so persistently cleave to the Christian name to the rejection of all party or sectarian names, and the Bible a sufficient rule of faith and practice.

PLACES OF MEETING OF THE CONFERENCES FOR 1871.

EASTERN VIRGINIA—Ferry Point, Norfolk county, Va.
NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA—Mount Zion, Orange county, N. C.
DEEP RIVER—Shiloh, Randolph county, N. C.
GEORGIA AND ALABAMA—Pleasant Grove, Ala.
VALLEY VIRGINIA—Unknown.

OFFICERS

OF THE

GENERAL CONVENTION.

PRESIDENT:

Rev. W. B. WELLONS, Suffolk, Va.

VICE PRESIDENT:

Rev. SOLOMON APPLE, Milton, N. C.

SECRETARY:

Rev. C. A. APPLE, Suffolk, Va.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

Rev. WM. S. LONG, Graham, N. C.

TREASURER:

ALFRED MORING, Morrisville, N. C.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

On Schools and Colleges—Rev. J. N. Manning, Chairman, Norfolk, Va.; Rev. Wm. S. Long, Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. C. A. Apple and Joseph King.

On Home Missions—Rev. J. W. Wellons, Chairman, Franklinton, N. C.; Rev. A. Iseley, Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. A. Apple, Rev. R. H. Holland.

On Publications—Rev. C. A. Apple, Chairman, Suffolk, Va.; Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. S. Apple, Thos. J. Kilby, Alfred Moring.

On Finance—Col. A. Savage, Chairman, Norfolk, Va.; Col. Wm. Eley, Maj. D. B. Dunbar, J. M. Moring.

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WELLONS' REPLY TO PARIS—CHRISTIANS NOT UNITARIANS..... 50

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION, SESSIONS OF 1866, 1867 and 1870, with ADDRESS OF Rev. W. B. WELLONS, President—sent by mail..... 12

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCES OF 1870..... 12

TRUE POSITION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, by S. APPLE—
Sent by mail..... 10

CONFERENCE ADDRESS, by Rev. J. N. MANNING—sent by mail..... 10

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ANNUAL

—OF—

The Christian Church

—FOR—

1871.

EDITED BY REV. W. B. WELLONS.

Volume I.

SUFFOLK, VA:
CHRISTIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.
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1872.

Contents.

	PAGE
The Christians	iii
Minutes of the Eastern Virginia Conference	1
Opening Address by Rev. C. A. Apple	15
Minutes of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference	21
Minutes of the Valley Virginia Conference	35
Opening Address of Rev. D. A. Long	41
Minutes of the Deep River Conference	50
Minutes of the Georgia and Alabama Conference	58
Circular Letter of Rev. Jubilee Smith	62
North Carolina Colored Conference	63
Colored Christians in Virginia	63
Sunday School Convention	64
Ministerial Directory	68
Position on Christian Union	69
New Publications this Year	69
Practice of the Christians	70
Position in reference to Benevolent Organizations	70
Education—Schools	70
Places for the Meeting of the Conferences in 1872	70
General Convention of the Christian Church	71
Object of this Publication—Our true position	71
Deaths in the Ministry	72
Ordinations	72
Licensures	72
Dedications	72
Students for the Ministry	72
Revivals	73
Papers published in the Interest of Christian Union	75
Other Christian Organizations	75
The Annual	76
Books for Sale at the Christian Sun Office	77
Advertisements	78
Life Insurance Advertisements	Second and third pages of cover
The Christian Sun—Book and Job Office	Last page of cover

The Christians.

The Christians have a history, principles and practice peculiarly their own. The organization had its birth near the close of the last century; and was the result of a secession from the Methodist Episcopal Church, the first secession which occurred in the history of Methodism in this country. Rev. JAMES O'KELLY was the great moving spirit in this secession. At the first, neither Mr. O'Kelly nor those who acted with him contemplated a new organization. They were opposed to an Episcopal form of government. They were opposed to the appointment and ordination of Bishops in the church, as a separate and distinct order of ministers from Elders and Presbyters. They desired only Superintendents, such as Mr. Wesley had appointed when Methodism was first introduced in America. But they were overruled, and they withdrew from the General Conference which assembled in the city of Baltimore in 1792. It was not until August, 1794, that they determined to organize. The meeting for organization was held in Surry county, Va. About twenty ministers and one thousand lay members made up the number first brought into co-operation.

The new organization laid down, first of all, the distinctive principle that CHRIST is the only head of his church. The body next decided to repudiate all party or sectarian names and to be known as CHRISTIANS, only. The only rule of faith and practice adopted was the BIBLE. The test of fellowship agreed upon was CHRISTIAN CHARACTER, and with these principles it was determined that PRIVATE JUDGMENT and the LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE should be accorded to and enjoyed by all, in reference to points of doctrine not considered essential to salvation. With these liberal views it was further agreed that all who believe in and love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, should be received into the fellowship and communion of the church.

These leading principles having been adopted with great unanimity, the ministers went forward in the organization of churches, and gathered into their communion all who would adopt their platform of principles and co-operate with them.

The societies thus organized soon became congregational in their practice, choosing their own pastors, and transacting their own business.

The organization became somewhat numerous in Virginia and North Carolina, and other States, and continued to increase until the death of Mr. O'Kelly, which occurred in 1825, when for a time it seemed to retrograde, until it became associated in the public mind, to a considerable extent, with one or two other organizations whose existence commenced between the years 1815 and 1830.

1826

In the year 1847, the "Southern Christian Association" was formed, which imparted new life to the body. The scattered ministers and churches, which had not affiliated with other denominations, were drawn together and united their efforts to propagate, with new zeal, the general principles at first adopted by the organization. From this date the membership continued to increase, until the "Southern Christian Convention" was organized in 1856, which introduced more order and system in the body than had at any time before existed.

When, in 1861, war was declared between the Northern and Southern sections of the Union, the CHRISTIANS were exercising an influence and enjoying a prosperity before unknown. But the war in its continuance prostrated all their general enterprises, scattered the membership of the churches, discontinued the annual meetings of the Conferences, and laid waste the whole organization.

But when in 1865 peace was restored, the pastors of former years began to gather up the scattered fragments of the organization. The churches were re-organized, the Conferences were invited to assemble for counsel and business, and the Convention which could not assemble in 1862, convened at Mount Auburn, N. C., in May, 1866, in regular session.

It was decided at this session that the body should be called "THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH," and it was determined to prepare and publish a Declaration of Principles, a Form of Government, and a Directory for Worship, which should express in Bible language the views and doctrines generally held as true; which should introduce order and system in labor, and secure uniformity in the administration of the sacraments of the Church, in its worship, and in all its services.

The publication of this Declaration of Principles, Form of Government and Directory for Worship, placed the CHRISTIANS squarely upon an Evangelical platform, drew the line of distinction between them and some other organizations with whom they had become associated in the public mind, and has added greatly to the strength, influence and power of the denomination.

The strong union sentiment which is now prevailing among all denominations, is so much in keeping with the spirit that has all along prevailed among the CHRISTIANS, that the organization is now attracting more attention from the public than ever before, and never did its prospects look so promising and the future so hopeful as at present. All the signs of the times point to the CHRISTIAN organization as the nucleus around which the great Union Church of the future is to gather when the evil of party names will be seen and shunned, the Bible become the rule to all, and brotherly love and charity shall reign throughout the whole body.

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-First Annual Session of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference

HELD AT

The Christian Church in Berkley, November 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1871.

BERKLEY, NORFOLK COUNTY, VA., *November 1st,* 1871.

The fifty-first annual session of the EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled here this morning.

Bro. Thos. J. Kilby, of Suffolk, took the chair temporarily and called the body to order.

The Standing Secretary called the roll, and the following ministers and lay-delegates were reported present:

ELDERS.—S. S. Barrett, Robert Rawls, W. B. Wellons, M. B. Barrett, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, Thos. W. Joyner.

LICENTIATE.—J. T. Whitley.

LAY-DELEGATES.—*Antioch*—T. J. Clements, A. W. Ballard, M. L. Watkins. *Barrett's*—J. W. Bain, A. Branch. *Berea*—Col. A. Savage, Willis J. Lee. *Bethlehem*—Col. Wm. Eley, Richard Copeland. *Cypress*—J. E. Riddick, Joseph Boothe, Dempsey Jones. *Damascus*—John B. Lassiter, Geo. B. Costen. *Hebron*—R. H. Keene, J. J. Daughtrey. *Holy Neck*—John Oberry, P. H. Lee. *Ivor*—G. G. G. Brittle. *Jerusalem*—A. L. Hill, W. C. Edmunds. *Liberty*—E. Vanderbury. *Liberty Spring*—H. H. Byrd, J. H. Brinkley. *Providence*—Samuel Etheredge, Jr., L. C. Ives. *Suffolk*—Thomas J. Kilby, John M. Taylor. *Union*—John T. Kitchen, James Daughtrey. [For full list of delegates and churches, see statistical table.]

A quorum being present, the President *pro tem* called upon Rev. R. Rawls to lead the body in devotional exercises. Bro. Rawls offered a fervent prayer.

It was then announced that nominations for President were in order.

M. L. Watkins nominated Rev. C. A. Apple.

A. L. Hill nominated Thomas J. Kilby.

Rev. M. B. Barrett put A. L. Hill in nomination, but afterwards withdrew the nomination at the solicitation of Bro. Hill.

An election was then held by ballot, which resulted in the choice of Bro. Thomas J. Kilby.

Bro. Kilby, the President elect, on taking the chair, in a brief speech thanked the Conference for the token of their appreciation they had given.

Bro. J. T. Whitley was put in nomination for Assistant Secretary, but, at his request, the nomination was withdrawn.

Bro. C. A. Apple was then nominated and elected Assistant Secretary.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. D. A. Long, fraternal messenger from the Virginia Valley Christian Conference, was invited to a seat in the body

Bro. Long responded to the invitation in appropriate terms, on taking his seat in the Conference.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. J. N. Manning, A. L. Hill, and W. C. Edmunds were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises during the present session.

Conference then, on motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, took a recess to listen to the Introductory Sermon.

Rev. C. A. Apple, of Nansemond, delivered the Sermon from Heb. XIII., 8, "*Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and forever.*" The discourse was profound in thought, and exceedingly eloquent in expression, and was listened to with deep interest by the entire congregation.

After the public exercises, the Conference resumed its session.

Rev. J. T. Whitley moved that Bro. Apple be requested to furnish a copy of the sermon just delivered for publication with the minutes. The motion was unanimously adopted, and the sermon will be found elsewhere in these pages.

On motion, the question was asked, if there were any new churches to be received into the Conference.

Petitions were read from a new church at Berea, in Norfolk county, and one at Mt. Carmel, in Isle of Wight county.

After due examination, and a discussion in which several members participated, the churches applying were unanimously received.

The delegates from Berea, Wm. H. Stallings and Wm. Bland, and those from Mt. Carmel, Irvin W. Duck and B. T. Carr, were duly recognized by the Conference.

On motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, the body decided to meet every day at 10 A. M. and adjourn at 2 P. M., during the present session, and to have public religious service every night.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. D. A. Long to preach to-night, and Rev. M. B. Barrett to-morrow night.

The arrangements for entertaining members of Conference

and visitors were then announced, after which the Conference adjourned till to-morrow.

Closing religious services were conducted by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

THURSDAY, November 2d.

The President took the chair and called the Conference to order. Religious services were conducted by Rev. D. A. Long.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. R. H. Holland and Rev. R. H. Costen reported themselves present.

James R. Saunders, from Cypress; W. H. Gay, from Antioch; John T. Harris and Dr. O. H. Baird, from Spring Hill; and John R. Rawls, from Ivor, arrived and took their seats as lay-delegates.

Rev. M. B. Barrett announced that Rev. Solomon Apple and Rev. E. W. Beale, fraternal messengers from the North Carolina Conference, had arrived since yesterday; he moved that they be invited to seats in the body.

Bro. Apple responded, expressing his gratification at being present.

Bro. Beale replied to the invitation, stating that he had formerly been a member of this Conference, and he felt more as if at home than among strangers.

On motion, letters were called for and read from the following churches: Antioch, Barrett's, Berea, Bethlehem, Cypress, Damascus, Hebron, Holy Neck, Ivor, Jerusalem, Johnson's Grove, Liberty, Liberty Spring, Providence, Spring Hill, Suffolk, and Union.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered a resolution, declaring the present form of report unnecessary.

The resolution was discussed by Revs. J. N. Manning, D. A. Long, J. T. Whitley, and C. A. Apple; after which Bro. Whitley offered the following substitute:

Resolved, That ——— be appointed a committee of three to draw up and present to this body during its present session a blank form of annual report from the local churches to the Conference.

The substitute was discussed at length by Rev. W. B. Wellons and others, after which it was adopted.

Rev. C. A. Apple offered a resolution, which was amended, and adopted as follows:

Resolved, That this Conference appoint a committee of three to report at our next annual session upon rules of order, forms and technicalities—the report, if adopted, to be considered as a guide for the action of this body in future.

The Chair announced as the committee on blank form of church report, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. J. N. Manning and I. W. Duck, and as the committee on rules of order, forms and technicalities, Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. W. B. Wellons, and A. L. Hill.

Rev. C. A. Apple, chairman of the Standing Committee on Sunday Schools, presented the following report:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to report:

That the progress of this work during the past year, though not altogether what we might have desired, has been, on the whole, extremely gratifying.

The Sunday School Convention, held by the Sunday school workers within the bounds of this Conference, in May last, was a most happy occasion, and has been attended, as we doubt not, by the most benign results. During the session of the Convention it was ascertained that our schools had never before been in so prosperous a condition, either as respects numbers or effectiveness in their work.

Reports from sixteen schools, whose statistics were correctly given, together with incidental information from several others, not correctly reported, enable us to approximate the statistics of the Sunday schools in our bounds, as follows: There are about 20 schools, with about 85 officers, 180 teachers, 275 members of Bible classes, and with a total number of pupils of about 1,400, or perhaps rather more. The total of persons engaged in the Sunday school work would, as we think, from reliable information before us, exceed 1,600. The circulation of Sunday school papers probably amounts to some three hundred volumes per annum, or about six thousand single numbers. The books in libraries will amount to two or three thousand. The number of tracts distributed we have no means of knowing, but believe it to be very considerable.

During the year the "Christian Board of Publication" has issued a little volume, prepared by a member of your committee, designed as a manual for opening and closing the schools, accompanied with a short catechism for the benefit of older children and youth. This little work has been generally adopted. It is hoped that still more works expounding our denominational principles, may be published for use in our schools. We need very much, indeed, a Sunday school literature of our own.

Rev. W. B. Wellons, with great kindness and devotion to the cause, continues to keep up a book agency at Suffolk, though he gets no remuneration for it. He will order any books that our Sunday schools may desire.

The system of graded lessons has been introduced into several of our schools, with a fair prospect of success. We most heartily recommend its general adoption. Your committee recommend that Conference consider the propriety of appointing a Sunday School Agent, who shall spend a part or the whole of his time in visiting the schools, and aiding them in their work. We think one who has made Sunday schools a special study, might be able to accomplish more than even the regular pastors, whose minds are burdened with a multitude of other cares. The subject is at least worthy of attention.

Respectfully submitted.

C. A. APPLE,
J. T. WHITLEY,
R. COPELAND,
Committee.

Rev. J. T. Whitley spoke in explanation of the report, call-

ing attention to how much we have accomplished in destitute fields of labor, as well as in regular churches, by the Sunday school work.

Rev. J. N. Manning followed, warmly endorsing the report and the remarks of Bro. Whitley.

Rev. C. A. Apple related the beneficial effects of Sunday schools at Liberty Spring, one of the churches of his charge, and strongly recommended the appointment of a Sunday School Agent, if at all practicable.

Rev. D. A. Long gave some interesting facts respecting the history and importance of Sunday school labor.

The report was then adopted.

Rev. J. N. Manning, from the Committee on Home Missions, made a report, which, after some discussion by Revs. W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning and C. A. Apple, was laid on the table for the present.

The Conference then adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. E. W. Beale.

FRIDAY, November 3d.

The Conference met, with the President in the chair. Rev. T. W. Joyner conducted the opening services.

The report on Home Missions was taken up, and Rev. C. A. Apple moved its recommittal.

Rev. J. N. Manning opposed the motion.

Rev. W. B. Wellons advocated the recommittal. He thought the committee should report what churches are supplied with pastors and what were not.

After some further discussion, Bro. Wellons offered the following as a substitute for Bro. Apple's motion:

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Home Missions be referred back, and that the committee be instructed to take up all the business heretofore transacted by the same committee.

The substitute was adopted.

Bro. William Bland, delegate from Berea, Norfolk county, and Bro. D. L. Darden, delegate from Holy Neck, appeared and took their seats.

On motion, Rev. W. B. Wellons and Thomas J. Clements were appointed a committe to examine the records of the various churches.

On motion, Conference called for ministerial reports, and reports were read from Revs. S. S. Barrett, W. B. Wellons, M. B. Barrett, R. Rawls, J. N. Manning, T. W. Joyner, C. A. Apple, and H. S. Dunn.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the Conference then went into the election of fraternal messengers to sister Conferences.

Revs. J. T Whitley, W. B. Wellons, C. A. Apple, and J. N. Manning were elected to the North Carolina Conference.

Revs. W. B. Wellons and J. T. Whitley were elected to the Virginia Valley Conference.

Rev. W. B. Wellons was appointed to the Deep River Valley Conference.

Conference then, on motion, went into the selection of a place for the next session.

Rev. W. B. Wellons nominated Hebron, Isle of Wight county, and that church was selected.

Rev. John N. Manning was appointed to deliver the Introductory address at the next annual session.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple it was

Resolved, That Conference now consider the subject af ministerial support and church finance.

On motion, the body then went into Committee of the Whole on the above resolution.

Bro. A. L. Hill was called to the chair.

In Committee of the Whole, Rev. W. B. Wellons spoke warmly in favor of some decided course in these matters. His address was of considerable length, and was of the most forcible and pathetic character.

Rev. S. S. Barrett doubted the propriety of adopting the views of the last speaker.

Bro. I. W. Duck endorsed the sentiments of Rev. W. B. Wellons.

Rev. C. A. Apple spoke at some length, arguing that, as a rule, non-paying members were utterly useless, and, as such, ought to be gotten rid of.

Rev. J. N. Manning advocated the same views.

Rev. J. T. Whitley spoke next. He thought the idea that preachers ought not to talk about money, absurd. It was as much their duty to teach liberality as faith.

The committee then rose, and reported to Conference through the chairman as follows:

Resolved, That, in our opinion, members of individual churches who persistently refuse payment of their dues, should be subjected to discipline as disorderly members.

The Conference adopted the report of the committee, and then adjourned. Religious services by Rev. S. Apple.

SATURDAY, November 5th.

The Conference met this morning and was opened with religious services by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

The Assistant Secretary not having yet arrived, the reading of the minutes of yesterday was deferred.

The Committee on Temperance offered the following

REPORT.

We, your committee, to whom was referred the subject of Temperance, would report that they are at a loss what to say on a subject which has heretofore called forth, at various times and occasions, what would seem to be the most cogent and irresistible argument. Indeed, argument has been apparently almost exhausted, without producing the much desired result. Yet the magnitude of the subject imperatively demands a renewed and combined effort to avert the evils, and roll back the mighty tide of iniquity and woe resulting from the deleterious and baneful influences of intemperance No evil has ever been so universally destructive to the human race; none which so counteracts the influences of the gospel, and has been so destructive to piety, and so sternly opposed to the spread of vital godliness. It has even impiously intruded its hydra-head into the sanctum of the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus; and whilst christianity is the highest, most ennobling and elevating profession to the moral as well as to the spiritual nature of man, yet we often see, with deep sorrow and bitterness of soul, a need of moral reform in the Church. It has long been a sore grief to the more discreet among God's people, and various and repeated efforts have been made by the more wise and astute to wipe away the reproach of intemperance within the pale of the Church, without producing satisfactory results. Long cherished habits are hard to change, and passion seemingly gains the mastery over the influence of grace. Professed christians are being slowly but surely (and, we may say, many cases rapidly,) drawn into the coil of the deadly serpent; and the effects of the poison of alcohol—the symptoms of the direful malaria, are daily seen in the flushed countenance and distorted body, whilst no effectual remedy has yet been applied. Our only resort seems to be admonitions to total abstinence; christian counsel and entreaty, united with fervent prayer in their behalf, as it might be considered imprudent to transcend these bounds. We must take the evil in the very bud, and labor in the spirit of Christ-like love, with gentleness, and with vigilant, persevering effort, and God will give success. And, believing with the poet,

"'Tis education forms the common mind—
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined,"

we would most earnestly exhort christian parents to early educate their children in the great principles of temperance. As early impressions are most lasting, and is the most effectual barrier to coming evils, and strengthens us to resist temptation, and will tell most gloriously upon the coming generation, we advise christian parents to endeavor to fortify the young hearts of the children against the mighty seducer, by keeping them as much as possible out of the reach of temptation, and firmly implanting in their minds the belief that alcoholic beverages are poison, and should be shunned as the most deadly serpent.

In conclusion your committee would offer the following resolutions:

1. That every Christian church endeavor to establish in its bounds a Council of the Friends of Temperance.

2. That the pastors of the several churches be requested to lecture as often as needful, and use all moral suasion to discountenance the making and use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage, and to inculcate a happy and salutary influence in behalf of total abstinence.

R. H. HOLLAND,
WM. ELEY,
MILLS L. WATKINS, } *Committee.*

The report was tabled for a short time in view of the small number present.

(3)a The Elders appointed at the last session to superintend the colored churches and preachers, rendered their report as follows:

REPORT.

The undersigned, Superintendents of the colored churches under the fostering care of this Conference, have but little to report. Justin Copeland, an ordained minister of the Church, has been preaching successfully in Nansemond and Isle of Wight counties, and his churches are doing well. Bro. M. B. Barrett is preaching for a colored congregation in Southampton county, which is doing well. Bro. S. S. Barrett reports a contemplated church in Norfolk county. We think the colored churches should all be encouraged to go forward in their work, and that the superintendence of the Conference should be continued.

Respectfully submitted.

W. B. WELLONS.
R. H. HOLLAND.

The report was adopted, and W. B. Wellons and R. H. Holland continued Superintendents.

Rev. J. T. Whitley read his annual ministerial report, which was placed on file with the rest.

The Committee on Church Records read the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Church Records have examined the books of the churches at Berea, Antioch, Spring Hill, Barrett's, and Jerusalem, and find them kept strictly in accordance with the recommendation of the Conference. The records of Providence church is slightly deficient.

The churches at Bethlehem, Cypress, Damascus, Hebron, Holy Neck, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Liberty, Liberty Spring, Suffolk and Union, have not furnished us with their books,

The books of the churches at Bethlehem, Holy Neck, Johnson's Grove, Suffolk and Union, were examined last year, and found correct.

We would earnestly advise that the books all be sent to the next Conference. Some of them have never yet been examined. It is important to have uniformity in the manner of keeping our records; and while most of those examined are kept in almost every particular correct, we would especially recommend the records of the church at Berea as a model book in every particular.

Respectfully submitted.

W. B. WELLONS,
THOS. J. CLEMENTS, } *Committee.*

After remarks by Revs. W. B. Wellons and J. N. Manning and Bro. R. Copeland, the report was adopted.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

On Education—W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple.

On Home Missions—J. N. Manning, I. W. Duck, Alexander Savage.

On Sunday Schools—C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley, John Oberry.

On Temperance—R. H. Holland, Wm. Eley, T. J. Clements.

Executive Committee—W. B. Wellons, M. B. Barrett, R. H. Holland.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The report on the subject of Temperance was then taken up.
Rev. W. B. Wellons spoke at length on the subject.
Rev. J. T. Whitley followed in some remarks.
The report was then adopted.

The committee appointed to draw up a blank form of report from the local churches to Conference, presented a form of report which was adopted. The following is the form:

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

For the Conference year commencing Nov. 1st, 18—, and ending Nov. 1st, 18—.

The Church at, county of, State of

OFFICERS:

Pastor, Rev.....
Deacons.....and
Secretary.....
Collector.....
Treasurer.....

STATISTICS.

Number reported at last session.....	
Number received since.....	
Dismissed by letter.....	
Withdrawn.....	
Died.....	
Expelled.....	
Total number of present membership.....	

SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

Number of Schools.....	
Number of Bible Classes.....	
Number of Officers and Teachers.....	
Number of Pupils.....	
Number of Volumes in Library.....	

FINANCES.

Amount paid the Pastor.....		
To Educate Young Preachers.....		
For the Establishment of Schools.....		
For other purposes.....		
Total.....		

What is the value of your Church property? $.....
How often do you have regular preaching?
Are your Quarterly Meetings regularly held?
Are the Sacraments duly observed?
Is a Prayer Meeting kept up in the Church?
Delegates to Conference:
Alternates:

GENERAL REMARKS.

Signed in behalf of the Church.

.....Secretary.

Rev. J. N. Manning presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the CHRISTIAN SUN, edited by Rev. W. B. Wellons, and published by W. B. Wellons & Co., at Suffolk, Va., most fully meets the wants of this Conference as a medium of religious intelligence, to all its members, and that we do what we can to extend the circulation of this, our denominational organ, throughout our territory.

The resolution was discussed by Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. S. Apple, and Rev. C. A. Apple. Some explanatory remarks were offered by the editor.

The resolution was then passed.

The Committee on Education then offered their annual report, as follows:

REPORT.

The Educational Committee would present their annual report for the consideration of the Conference.

In obedience to instructions given us at the last session of your body, we have endeavored to push forward the proposition then pending to establish a school of high grade at Suffolk. A joint stock company was formed, and $2,300 in stock was taken at $100 a share, $50 a half share, and $25 a quarter share. A Board of Trustees was chosen in a full meeting of the stockholders, of which the chairman of this committee was made chairman; a Building Committee was appointed, and a suitable house is now being erected, which we hope to see completed by the first of January next. Efficient and well qualified teachers, both in the male and female departments, have been secured, and the first session of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute is expected to open about the second week in January next.

Prof. Joseph King, who will be one of the Principals of the school, has erected at his own expense a large and convenient dwelling and boarding house for male students, and at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees it was proposed to erect a suitable house for Mrs. Beaman's use, who will take charge of the boarding department for female students and the Music department in the school. It is proposed to form a new company for the erection of this building, who shall hold the property as their own, and rent it at a moderate rate to the person who may use it for a boarding house for female students. Only a small number of shares have been taken in this house, and it is hoped that the number will be increased at this session of the Conference.

We would most earnestly recommend and advise that the Conference use every effort to foster and build up the interest of this school. Let it become what it is intended to be, the school of the Conference, and let it receive patronage from every church and every community brought under the influence of the Christians. Let it become the centre of attraction for our whole Conference brotherhood, and let it have the prayers and sympathy of the whole Church.

The committee have exercised a guardian care over the young men preparing for the ministry, who became members of the Biblical Class.

Bro. J. T. Whitley has been kept at school at Richmond College, and has made excellent progress in his studies. His expenses for the two years has been $369.50. On subscriptions for his benefit at the Conference of 1869, $237.65 have been collected, $18 remaining uncollected. On subscriptions made at the Conference of 1870, $94.30 have been collected, and $20 remain yet uncollected.

The account sums up thus:

Received on subscriptions made in 1869 and '70	$331 95
Paid expenses in Richmond	$359 50
Deficient	27 55
	$359 50

The above deficit has been advanced by the chairman of the Board of Education.

We ask no further assistance for Bro. Whitley, having arranged for him to continue his studies at College, and by entering the pastoral work, to sustain himself.

John T. Kitchen and J P. Barrett have been attending the English and Classical School of Rev. C. A. Apple, at Level Green, and have made considerable progress in their studies. Bro. Apple has boarded them in his family and given them special attention, charging them only a moderate board and nothing for tuition. Bro. Apple thus brings the Conference under obligation to him for having made the largest subscription of any other toward the education of these young men. Bros. Kitchen and Barrett are both studious, strictly pious, and possess a good spirit, and we think the Conference should arrange to keep them at school, either with Bro. Apple or elsewhere.

The whole amount of their expenses for the present year has been $177.50. The amount subscribed at the last Conference for their education was $175, of which amount only $70.54 has been collected, and $104.46 remaining uncollected, leaving amount due Bro. Apple for board of the young men, $104.96.

We would very earnestly insist that subscribers at the last Conference pay the amount at once and relieve Bro. Apple, and that further subscriptions be made to continue the young men at school.

Your committee would recommend the ordination of Jesse T. Whitley to the office of Elder in the Christian Church, at the solicitation of the churches at Suffolk, Spring Hill and Ivor.

The committee recommend that license be granted to Bro. J. T. C. Pretlow, to preach and labor as a Licentiate in the Church, he having made suitable proficiency in his studies.

Two other young men have been recommended to the Board for examination, with a view of entering the ministry, one of whom appeared before the committee at this session. We would advise these young men to continue their studies, and at the next session to come forward for further examination. And we would remind all that when they do not appear before the committee for examination, they cannot properly be considered members of the class.

We further advise that all the pastors of the churches, and prominent brethren in the Church, look up the young men of the Church whose hearts and minds may have been turned by God's Holy Spirit toward the work of the ministry, and bring them forward to the committee.

Our report is respectfully submitted.

W. B. WELLONS, *Chm'n.*

The report was taken up by items. Rev. W. B. Wellons made some remarks upon several points in the report.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, on motion, the time of the sitting was extended indefinitely.

Bro. W. H. Gay was granted leave of absence.

The report was then discussed by items, and all the items were adopted, except that referring to the license of J. T. C. Pretlow, which was placed in the hands of the Executive Committee, he being absent.

Five hundred and fifty dollars were then raised for educational purposes, two hundred and fifty dollars of which was for the education of Bros. Kitchen and Barrett.

The President appointed as a Presbytery to ordain Rev. J. T. Whitley, Revs. W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning and M. B. Barrett.

Rev. M. B. Barrett, at his request, was excused from serving on the ordaining Presbytery, and Rev. C. A. Apple was appointed in his stead.

The Committee on Home Missions made the subjoined report:

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions report that there is probably much more to do within the bounds of our Conference than has been indicated by communications previously made to this body. Most of the territory is indeed occupied by some one or more of the denominations of the country, but not proportionate to the wants of the people, nor in such a way as best to subserve their interests, if, indeed, the present system can subserve them. For instance, in many places the church accommodations are wholly inadequate to the wants of the inhabitants, while in others they are more than necessary. In large cities scarcely more than half the inhabitants are provided for; while in small towns and villages, the provisions are usually in excess of the moral wants of the people. In most country places the houses of worship might, perhaps, hold more than half the people; but, owing to the multiplied divisions of the Church, service is held only in about one in four each Sabbath, so that about three in four are unoccupied, and consequently worthless, as the house used one Sabbath might do every Sabbath. This arrangement provides for only about one-fifth or sixth of the people, and allows them an opportunity of attending the ministry of God's word only about twelve or fifteen times in the year. This evil would be obviated by the adoption of the principles of the Christian Church; in which case every neighborhood in the land could have preaching every Sabbath.

Still, one-third of the people would be unprovided for, as the capacity of all the houses of worship is equal to only about one-third, and allowing one-third to remain at home, from age, infancy, sickness and other causes, a third would yet remain unaccommodated. In large cities, even in Norfolk, the proportion is greater than this. The cities, therefore, furnish the most inviting fields for missionary work.

Now, it is to provide for the neglected and destitute that your committee was appointed. But formidable obstacles interpose, and difficult tasks have to be performed, which tend greatly to depress the hope of early success. We would, however, venture to suggest the following course, viz:

Let every minister labor earnestly in the spirit of the Master to indoctrinate the people in the principles of the Christian Church, thereby establishing a non-sectarian religion, so that one organization may serve the wants of a neighborhood. Let each minister and congregation strive to accommodate with the means of grace every one living accessible to the place of worship; and also give all the attention possible to any neglected place within reach, encouraging the erection of houses of worship wherever needed.

In addition to this we would suggest that Conference immediately adopt some plan by which a fund may be accumulated and applied to Home Missions. Very many places might now be occupied with profit. Among numerous others, we would mention the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth as being most inviting. Could a suitable man be engaged to devote his whole time in one or the other, or both of these cities, a flourishing church could doubtless be raised during the next year.

The committee further report, that they have ascertained that nearly all the churches in the Conference have been supplied with preaching, and those not now supplied will be without any assistance from us. Only the Chuckatuck mission remains unsupplied, and the uncertainty of procuring a house of worship places it out of our power to make any definite arrangement for that place at present.

We would recommend that Bro. John N. Manning continue his efforts to establish a church in Norfolk, and we would most earnestly recommend all our ministers to cultivate a missionary spirit, and endeavor to enlarge our borders more and more every year.

Respectfully submitted.

J. N. MANNING,
I. W. DUCK, } *Committee.*

The report was discussed and adopted.

On motion, Rev. J. N. Manning was appointed agent for the Norfolk mission.

On motion, all the pastors in the Conference were appointed additional agents.

Bro. I. W. Duck was added to the list of agents for the same enterprise.

On motion of J. T. Whitley, Conference decided to have the proceedings of the present session published in the *Christian Annual*, a magazine to be issued from the office of the CHRISTIAN SUN.

Resolutions of thanks were then passed to the citizens of Ferry Point and vicinity for hospitality, to the officers for faithful attendance to their duties, and to the various railroad companies for return tickets.

Rev. R. H. Holland was added to the list of fraternal messengers to the North Carolina Conference.

Conference then adjourned, to meet on Wednesday before the 1st Sunday in November, 1872, at Hebron, Isle of Wight county, Va.

Religious exercises by Rev. E. W. Beale.

THOS. J. KILBY. *President.*

W. B. WELLONS, *Secretary.*

Statistical Table.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole number of communicants.	Paid Pastor.	For education of y'ng preachers	Paid for other purposes.	Whole amount paid.	Sabbath Schls.
Antioch,	W. B. Wellons,	T. J. Clements, M. L. Watkins, W. H. Gay, A. W. Ballard,	40	61	2	2	10	570	$350	$74	$628	$1,052	3
Barrett's,	M. B. Barrett,	J. W Bain, A. Branch,	7		4	2		97	50			50	
Bethlehem,	C. A. Apple,	R. Copeland, Wm. Eley,	1	2		1	1	223	175	20	160	355	2
Berea,	W. B. Wellons,	A. Savage, W. J. Lee,	3	6	10	1		68	150	20	370	540	2
Berea, Norfolk county,	J. N. Manning,	W. H. Stallings, Wm. Bland,	30								200	200	
Cypress,	W. B. Wellons,	D. Jones, J. Boothe, J. E. Riddick, J. R. Saunders,	15	32	1	4	5	355	375	14	1,470	1,859	1
Damascus,	C. A. Apple,	J B. Lassiter, G. J. Costen,	15	1		1	5	105	80	10	5	95	1
Hebron,	C. A. Apple,	R. H. Keene, J. J. Daughtrey,	2	1	1	1	1	92	75	8	85	168	1
Holy Neck,	R. H. Holland,	J. Oberry, P. H. Lee, D. L. Darden,	71	1		1	3	386	125		275	400	1
Ivor,	J. T. Whitley,	G. G. G. Brittle, J. R. Rawls,						20		1		1	
Jerusalem,	J. N. Manning,	A. L. Hill, W. C. Edmonds,	2		2	2		38	200	20	300	520	1
Johnson's Grove,	T. W. Joyner,		1	2			3	31	5		8	13	1
Liberty,	J. N. Manning,	E. Vanderbury,	4					30			100	100	1
Liberty Spring,	C. A. Apple,	J. H. Brinkley, H. H. Byrd,	35					54	60		10	70	1
Mount Carmel,	M. B. Barrett,	I. W. Duck, B. T. Carr,	79					79			1,100	1,100	1
Providence,	J. N. Manning,	L. C. Ives, S. A. Etheredge,	7	3	1	1		106	250	20	205	475	1
Spring Hill,	M. B. Barrett,	J. T. Harris, O. H. Baird,	25	1		3		116	100	20	70	190	1
Suffolk,	W. B. Wellons,	T. J. Kilby, J. M. Taylor,	5			3	5	141	150	31	820	1,001	1
Union,	R. H. Holland,	J. T. Kitchen, J. Daughtrey,	6			1	4	44	75		5	80	1
			348	110	21	23	37	2,555	$2,220	$238	$5,811	$8,269	20

☞ For names and Postoffice address of Ministers, see Ministerial Directory.

Christianity, in its Internal Constitution and its External Relations.

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Delivered at the Opening of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference, November 1, 1871, by Rev. C. A. APPLE.

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"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever."—HEBREWS 13: 9.

I have chosen this passage of Holy Writ, rather as a suggestive motto, than as a logical subject upon which to predicate the remarks which I am about to offer for your consideration.

My theme will be the Church, or, if you please, Christianity, considered in the unchangeable nature of its fundamental doctrines, the identity, in all ages, of Christian experience, and the unalterable destiny, if I may so speak, which stamps it with the likeness of its Divine Author, as "yesterday, to-day, and forever the same." While I shall speak of the immutability of Christianity, as respects these things, I shall, on the other hand, view it in its wondrous adaptability to meet the wants of every age and every state of society, tracing briefly its gradual development through the centuries which have intervened since it first began to be known among mankind.

Viewed thus, the subject assumes the most gigantic proportions. Nor do I enter upon it without many misgivings, as respects my own ability to treat it in a manner profitable to you, and in any degree worthy of the magnificent issues to be discussed. But if any species of presumption may ever be excused, surely it is that, under whose promptings, the mind aspires to reach those transcendent heights, from which it may have nobler and broader views of human destiny and of those relations which the soul bears to its God. Of the consideration of such themes, it may be said, that it is better to have failed in their solution, than never to have attempted their investigation. It is a glorious thought of an American poet, when he pictures a youth, forsaking the ease which might have been found in the valley below, toiling up the heights of the cloud-piercing mountain, amid the blinding fury and stunning war of the tempest, bearing aloft that mysterious banner, upon which was inscribed the single word—"EXCELSIOR!" To us more especially, my younger brethren, it teaches a noble and glorious lesson. It bids us labor up the craggy steeps of thought, and along the flinty paths of patient investigation, until the soul, no longer oppressed by the gross and tainted atmosphere of this narrow earthly vale, shall expand into proportions befitting a candidate for immortality—an aspirant for the "glory that fadeth not away."

Let the existence of some such indefinable aspiration in my own mind, plead as my excuse to-day, if I appear to have entered upon themes which are beyond my reach. If I succeed in placing before you the Church as the glorified object of thought and rational investigation, as the unspeakably splendid and august temple to be erected by the labor of human beings under the direction of one Divine Master Builder, I shall have done a great work. If I fail in this, as no doubt I shall to a certain extent, I shall yet be satisfied, if I can infuse a spirit of investigation into the minds of my fellow helpers in this glorious work.

I. I shall view the Christian Religion, first, in those aspects which mark its unchangeable character.

Jesus Christ the embodiment and personification of his religion, is Divine, and, in consequence, immutably and forever the same. Christianity has never lost its identity. Its life-giving and fructifying power is the same to-day, as when, nearly two thousand years ago, the plan of salvation was finished upon Calvary, and its heavenly Author spoke peace to a troubled world. As the man of science traces from amid the hoary rocks of a primeval age, the operations of a motive energy, known, under its various forms, as light, heat, and electricity, and, as he detects its workings all along up through the geologic periods, beholds it in the inorganic processes and living organisms of to-day, and follows it away amid meteors, planets,

suns and nebular systems, so the Christian philosopher traces, in every age, the footsteps of that Spirit, which, before all worlds, planned the redemption of immortal souls from the bondage of corruption, unto the liberty and glory of eternal life.

The Church has steadily progressed. What code of ethics, what system of philosophy has so long survived, amid the clashing of opinion and the searching rigor of logical investigation? It is true, that the antiquity of a doctrine does not entitle it to credit, where it has been held only by an ignorant people, amid ages of intellectual stagnation and darkness. But certainly it is some confirmation of the truth of a religion, to know that now, in the nineteenth century, it stands as unimpeachable in its fundamental doctrines, as when Abraham and Melchisedeck worshipped the "Most High God," and Job looked forward to a Redeemer, four thousand years ago. The history of the Church, if we allow the religion which it teaches to be mere superstition, is the most wonderful upon record. All along down through more than two thousand years of the Abrahamic and Mosaic dispensations, it struggled triumphantly against a tide of ignorance, superstition, idolatry, and evil passions, such as no other system of belief ever successfully endured. Long, very long, before Homer sang his beautiful, but extravagant songs of gods and heroes amid the classic groves of Greece, a rational worship was paid to the true God by the simple shepherds and vine-dressers of Palestine. Long after the systems of Socrates, Pythagoras, Zeno, Plato, Aristotle, and Epicurus, were exploded, learned philosophers and divines taught and believed the religion of Jesus Christ—the same which solaced the dying hours of the patriarch, in the days when Egypt was young, and when the pyramids were, perhaps, unknown.

Christianity has undergone every test which the shifting scenes of history and the different degrees of intelligence among mankind could afford. It originated, in its present form, among an obscure and despised people, and was first preached, even here, by humble fishermen, mainly to men no higher in rank than themselves. It spread, in spite of every effort to check it, into the more cultivated states of Asia Minor, crossed Hellespont into Greece, and in the midst of Mars Hill, Paul ventured to proclaim its truth to the learned Philosophers of Athens. Rapidly it advanced through the Roman Empire, uprooting the poetical mythology of those times, and confounding all the learning and philosophy of the age. Coming up at first from the lower ranks of the people, it reached the minds and hearts of generals, senators, and sages, until finally, in the language of Gibbon, "it planted its banner in triumph upon the capitol." Well might the unbelieving historian of the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," seek for causes external to itself, from which to account for the marvellous success which this religion achieved. But, if it had done no more than to supplant the extravagant systems of Greece and Rome, it might have been said, that it prevailed in an enlightened age, not because it was less human, but because it was more rational and refined than the worship (already falling into disrepute among an intelligent people) which taught men to bow down before the fabled deities of Tartarus and Olympus. It had, therefore, a still more difficult ordeal to endure. Through all the confusion of the dark ages, amid the general decline of learning, which had been swept away by the torrent of barbarian hordes, that rapidly extinguished the civilization of the Roman empire, it still maintained its vitality. Like a fire, which appears to be smothered by a great mass of rubbish thrown upon it; but which eventually permeates and breaks through it all, bursting into a flame more glorious than ever, so Christianity, for a time seemingly overwhelmed, amid the ignorance and superstition of the dark ages, finally rose above it all, with new power, and in matchless beauty and splendor.

But it not only bore the test of Greek and Roman civilization, not only came unscathed through the middle ages—it has undergone the trial of a second civilization, before which the enlightenment of classic ages grows pale. At a period in the world's history when everybody at College had gone far beyond the philosophy and learning of Athens, it has withstood the most skilful attacks from the most acute logicians, and the profoundest men of science.

With all the advancement of this age, the Bible points to a higher and more manly civilization than that of the nineteenth century. Should this volume, which we consider divinely inspired, ever hereafter be shown to be purely of human origin—to have been devised and written by comparatively ignorant men, in a semi-barbarous age, many of them, living long before the period when profane history begins to be authentic, it will assuredly stand forth, the grandest effort of human genius which our earth has ever beheld—a production, before which those of Homer and Milton,

Plato and Locke, Bacon and Newton, and Humboldt, sink into mere insignificance.

To-day, after a lapse of more than three thousand, three hundred and twenty years, with all the prodigious advances which science has made, it cannot be proved that Moses made one single statement inconsistent with what the profoundest research of the nineteenth century shows to be true. On the contrary, modern science, so far as its conclusions are established, is but a grand commentary upon revelation, confirming its statements, and adding new beauty and force to the religion which it teaches. In the laws of motive energy as explained by Mayer, Helmholtz and Faraday; in the spectrum analysis of Kirchoff, in all that is true of the "philosophy of the conditioned," as expounded by Spencer, we trace the footsteps of that God, at the sound of whose awful voice, darkness melted away, and chaos settled into matchless symmetry and order. Let a man but enter into science, with the open Bible in his hand, and he will find that there is another volume in nature, equally glorious, because the work of the same infinite author, and the exact counterpart of that which has come down to us from the inspired prophets, apostles, and evangelists. We have only to search the realms of mind and matter, in their present condition, and past history, to see clearly that visible things are but types of the invisible, and that, as the parables and miracles of our Saviour were but tangible illustrations of the abstract doctrine of vicarious redemption, so all history and all visible creation constitute a sensible diagram, by means of which the human intellect may proceed to demonstrate the grand theorem of Christianity. Every part of the mighty cosmos of organic and inorganic being, is but a link in the chain which binds the footstool of earth to the throne of heaven, forged and fastened by the incarnate God, and leading up, like an Ariadne clue, up from this mazy labyrinth of darkness and sin, up from the shades of death and hell, into the full blaze of eternal day.

In concluding this part of the subject, let me advert to the unchangeableness of Christianity, with reference to its fundamental doctrines. These doctrines, like their author, are "yesterday, to-day, and forever the same." I know it is said, that we ought not to waste much time upon abstract questions of this kind. But I beg to state, as my opinion, deliberately formed, that time spent in considering, establishing and defining the essential doctrines of Christianity, is not spent in vain. The subject is worthy of our most careful consideration. The doctrines are to religion what the rocks are to the mountains—they give strength, consistency, and stability. Without its mighty heart of rock, the mountain would sink down gradually into the plain; with this, it stands without material change, against the warring elements of thousands of years. The fundamental doctrines are the rocks of Christianity. Against them the storms of superstition have spent their force, and the bolts of heresy and open infidelity have been hurled in vain. Unbelief has seen that, with the overthrow of these doctrines, the religion of Christ must fall, and, under the guise of Arianism, Anti-nomianism, Universalism, and the thousand other Protean shapes which the monster assumes, it has sought to undermine these fundamental points, knowing that, with their overthrow, the whole superincumbent structure must speedily collapse into nothingness. But that "faith once delivered to the saints," that faith which Paul had kept, and which gave him such unspeakable comfort when he was ready to be offered up, is still the stay of millions of trusting souls, who "have respect unto the recompense of reward." Like the tall cliff against whose rocky base the waves are dashing, and idly spending their force, while it raises its own towering head in serene majesty to the skies, the essential doctrines of Christianity hurl back the billows of unbelief, and afford a steep and rugged, but sure path to the soul, as it mounts up along the way that prophets and martyrs have trodden, to find eternal repose in the bosom of its God.

II. I shall proceed now to glance briefly at those External and Mutable Features of Christianity, whereby, without losing its Identity, it Adapts itself to every age and every state of Society.

It would be an undertaking worthy of the most patient attention, if we could analyze and classify the different types of Christianity, as they have been developed in different individuals, and in different ages and countries. We have a striking illustration of this principle in the characters of the apostles themselves. While Peter, John and Paul were all Christians, the character of each is marked with a distinct individuality. Peter is strong, but impulsive, and easily carried away by the torrent of his feelings; John is the quiet, tender, gentle apostle of love; Paul is the firm, iron-nerved apostle of faith, fertile in resources, of keen discrimination, and

overpoweringly grand in the logic of his mission. But after all, and through all, their faith is one and the same

So, in every age, and in every nation, Christianity, continuing the same in its essential elements, has varied in the external impress which it has left upon the characters of men. "To whom much is given of him shall much be required," and the converse of the same proposition, are most abundantly exemplified in the history of the Church. I have sometimes thought that, after all, we are often too strict in our interpretation of the characteristics of Christianity, and are too apt to judge of the quality of religion by our own standard, irrespective of the different degrees of light and knowledge, within the reach of those upon whom our adverse judgment is passed. The aim of every man should undoubtedly be to approximate as nearly as possible to a perfect standard; but who is in a position to consider the endless variety of circumstances which have contributed to warp men of different ages, nations, and modes of thought, from that ideal criterion which we, fallible beings in ourselves, have set up as the proper rule of action? While it is unquestionably true, that an enlightened age and rational views of nature and revelation are calculated to produce the highest and most consistent types of Christianity, it may also be true that many have had the *spirit* of Christ, while in practice they have fallen far short of what a highly enlightened man perceives to be necessary to a complete Christian character. Their hearts may have been warmed by the same love and trust in Jesus, though they may not have seen so clearly, as we do the unspeakably tender and sublime obligations which that relation imposes. The path which they have trodden may not have been so lightened and beautified as ours, but in their humble ways and degrees, they have trodden it with the same faith, and with us, they have had Christ formed in their hearts; "the hope of eternal glory."

But it is undoubtedly true that Christianity has, in almost every age, been perverted to answer the ends of designing men, or to suit the morbid fancy of enthusiasts and bigots. The absurd dogmas of papal infallibility, the transubstantiation, the image worship, the saint worship, and the relic worship of Rome show us examples of men, who "hew out to themselves broken cisterns," and who debase the pure spiritual worship of God, into the sordid forms dictated by their own perverted imaginations.

The austere and gloomy theology of the Puritans was but a revival, under another form, of the cold, hard, unfeeling philosophy of the Stoics—the result of a common and mischievous tendency among men, to regard the Almighty as a morose tyrant, or an unfeeling judge, rather than what he really is—the Merciful Father, who delights in our happiness, and who having been "touched with a feeling of our infirmaties," even in our shortcomings, "knoweth our frame, and remembereth that we are dust."

Yet there is a conservative power, inherent in Christianity, which tends to correct these abuses and bring men back into the true and perfect way of life. While its external features are such as do not conflict, either with God's law, as written in nature, or with those fundamental principles which are written in his word, no great danger is to be apprehended; but, when either of these is violated, the warning is sounded, and champions of the truth spring up on every side, to defend the purity of that faith by which we are made "wise unto salvation." Thus, when Rome sought to destroy the fundamental doctrine of justification by faith, and to make her pope head of the Church, Martin Luther and his associates came forth to call men back to the "old paths" of the Lord.

When Puritanism, by a mistaken interpretation of God's word, was giving to religion a tone inconsistent with every warm and generous impulse of our nature, it was gradually checked by the spread of knowledge and a more enlarged and philosophical acquaintance with the laws of our intellectual, moral, and physical being.

Thus, the onward march of science and learning bave been showing us the folly of contending for the mere externals of religion—the mint, anise, and cumin—while they have only established more firmly than ever the grand, immutable, fundamentals of our system. Who thinks it very important now, or would seriously contend about the method of approaching the Lord's table, whether we kneel or sit upon our seats? Who, at this day, thinks it a matter of moment whether a minister shall enter the pulpit in gown and surplice, or in his ordinary dress? Yet, not more than two centuries ago, there were men ready to go to the death upon these very points! We almost smile at the bare statement, and ask how could rational beings have been so superstitious?

Two hundred years ago, John Bunyan thought it a sin, or at least a very dangerous practice, to use written forms of prayer. But what enlightened Christian, at this day, would argue that it is a matter of importance, whether we read our prayers, or utter them extemporaneously, provided only, that we pray in spirit and in truth? I can almost venture to predict that, in less than two centuries to come, few intelligent men will be found to assert that baptism—the source of so much angry contention in the Christian world—may not lawfully be administered in any way that believers may desire, even though the administrator may personally prefer some other mode.

Where are we to seek for the causes by which these changes have been effected? They may be found, I think, in that progressive enlightenment, which has gradually banished the prejudices of mankind, leading us to regard the internal constitution of our religion as of far higher importance than its mere external and mutable relations.

The preservation of the essential elements of Christianity, and its gradual development through the instrumentality of such external means and appliances as are best calculated to advance the grand proposition enunciated in the text, which serves as a motto for this discourse, is the noblest subject of thought that can occupy the attention of a rational, immortal being. As God has formed us in his own likeness, and has chosen, through Jesus Christ, to reveal himself to us in his anthropomorphic character, we have every encouragement to enter upon the study of those sublime questions which Christianity involves. The great queries which we should propound to ourselves, are: 1. *What are the essential doctrines of our religion? and,* 2. *How may they be best infused into the minds and hearts of men?*

Can these interrogatories ever receive a satisfactory answer? With all due deference to many profound theologians, who answer in the negative, I think the problem may be solved. The Scriptures, I think, clearly reveal the fundamental doctrines, *as such,* and the great body of Protestant Christians are substantially agreed upon them. The non-essentials are not clearly fixed, in all their details, but as knowledge advances, and experience increases, men will settle down upon those forms which appear best calculated to perpetuate the unchangeable spirit of the Christian faith.

I have shown how unreasonable prejudices are swept away by the logic of human experience. But God is at work everywhere, and in every way. The problems of immortality are being solved, not by the Church alone, but throughout the whole world of thought. We preachers are not the only expounders of God's word. Its interpretation is not to be found only in the decrees of councils, the creeds of parties, and the commentaries of those who pore over manuscripts, coins, and medals, and dive deep into the recesses of classical and oriental learning.

We are being led by ways that we know not of. We are to search for parallel passages not in the written word alone; but nature—the cosmos of mind and matter—opens to us another volume, written by the same author, clear in its interpretation of the supernatural revelation, and rich in testimony corroborative of its truth. Each supports the other. Aided by the book of Nature, we have learned to interpret the book of Revelation more wisely than our fathers of two hundred years ago. Over the otherwise dark and mysterious lines of Nature's volume, Revelation has cast a heavenly ray; and while men sat in darkness, scanning Nature's pages for evidence of a higher existence after death, "life and immortality were brought to light through the Gospel."

What conclusion, my brethren, must we draw from all this? Let us adhere more firmly than ever to the essentials of our faith. To such grand doctrines as that of Jesus Christ—God manifest in the flesh—giving himself, a vicarious sacrifice, for our sins, of justification by faith, of eternal rewards and punishments, and all of the same immutable character, let us cling with an unwavering grasp. As to externals, not clearly revealed, let us adopt those which are best calculated to advance the great ends of Christianity.

There is to us, as reflecting beings, whom God has endowed with rational souls, a vast field for exertion and thought. Some of us are best adapted to study the concrete—that which is tangible and familiar. Others are more fitted for a higher scope of thought, which deals with generalities and abstract questions. The former will be most familiar with men as individuals; the latter will deal with individuals rather as subjects for experiment, in the inductive process of arriving at general conclusions. The former are the working men, the latter are the philosophical thinkers. Let not the one class despise the other. Let not the working man imagine that he can do without the man of abstract thought. Let him not follow the sickly sentimentality too prevalent in this age, and suppose that a man in his closet may not be as great a

benefactor of his kind as he who goes forth into the open field of labor and mingles freely with his race. Let not the abstract thinker despise the practical suggestions of him who knows all the exigencies of active operations in the working world. Both are necessary to our success. The one class will define and map out the territory to be occupied; the other will enter in with brave hearts and strong hands and subdue it.

A mighty work remains to be done by the Church. A superstitious adherence to dead forms is to be overcome; infidelity, entrenching itself within the limits of philosophy and science, is to be attacked and crushed in its stronghold, and the civilization of this age is to be developed and moulded into a form consistent with the broad and elevated philanthropy of Jesus Christ.

God's word is the lamp for our feet. But we cannot fully interpret it by reading the Bible alone. Let us take this infallible book and place it side by side with that of Nature. Those grand old truths, which apostles preached, for which martyrs bled, and which have come down to us, in all their glorious strength, like rich notes of an organ peal along the galleries and corridors of time, are echoed and re-echoed from every corner of God's universe.

Let us interpret the language of Nature and human experience fearlessly and well. In our study of these things let us follow the youth, who heeded not the invitations of ease, but, with a fixed look aloft, rushed up the mountain side, bearing the banner on which was inscribed the glorious word—"Excelsior."

Standing at last upon the pinnacle of human thought and labor, we may hear, thundering up from the internal fires of earth, through the solid granite and all the geologic rocks, whispering amid the groves and flowers, breathing in animated nature, swelling and murmuring in the billows of the ocean, echoing and re-echoing from star to star, through the ethereal interspaces of the universe, and bursting, like the torrent's roar, from the countless millions of souls that, through all ages, have longed for immortal life; you may hear, I say, the magnificent epilogue of time—the incomparably glorious prologue of eternity: "Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, To-Day, and Forever."

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-Sixth Annual Session of the N. Carolina and Va. Christian Conference

HELD AT

Mt. Zion Church, Orange County, N. C., Nov. 17, 18, 20 and 21, 1871.

MT. ZION, ORANGE COUNTY, N. C., }
November 17*th*, 1871. }

The NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met, pursuant to adjournment, at this place to-day, and was called to order by Rev. A. G. Anderson, President of the last session.

The roll of ministers and churches was called, and the following responded:

ELDERS.—Solomon Apple, A. Iseley, T. J. Fowler, J. W. Wellons, A. G. Anderson, W. G. Clements, W. S. Long, C. A. Boon, W. T. Walker, and E. W. Beale.

Churches, through their delegates:

O'Kelly's Chapel—W. H. Adkins, A. Moring.

Pleasant Spring—B. S. Utley, J. G. Langston.

Pope's Chapel—Henry May, M. C. Winston.

Hank's Chapel—J. R. Farrell.

Mt. Auburn—J. H. Fleming.

Union, Va.—Wm. H. Bunting.

Union, N. C.—J. G. Garrison, A. Graham, G. R. Maynard, A. King.

Pleasant Hill, (Johnson)—Joseph Hardie, Benj. Matthews.

Wake Chapel—R. P. Smith.

Christian Chapel—N. J. Woodell, J. F. Mann.

Shallow Well—D. B. Robertson, J. B. Watson.

Antioch—J. J. Byrd.

Damascus—M. McCauley, Thos. B. Farrar.

New Providence—Dr. W. C. Tarpley, P. R. Harden, A. Whitsitt.

Hayes' Chapel—W. L. Moring, J. T. Ball.
Martha's Chapel—Alleus Stone.
Apple's Chapel—R. C. Scott, Asa Klapp.
Salem Chapel—Wm. Reid, J. Grubbs.
Mt. Zion—H. Harbour, J. Compton.
Bethlehem—James Gilliam, C. Brann.
Bethel—D. Ausley, S. Mitchell.
Hines' Chapel—Zachariah Apple, L. Iseley.
Lebanon—J. M. Smith, J. D. Lea.
Concord—J. G. Garrison, H. Minor.
New Elam—A. J. Holt.
Pleasant Hill (Chatham)—S. Edwards, M. Murchison.

A quorum being present, Conference proceeded to business.

Religious exercises by Rev. T. J. Fowler.

A ballot for President being the first business in order, Rev. S. Apple was elected, and Rev. W. S. Long was appointed Assistant Secretary.

On motion, Revs. W. B. Wellons and C. A. Apple, of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference, D. A. Long of the Valley Virginia Conference, and T. G. Craven, Jno. S. Lawrence, and M. L. Hurley, fraternal messengers, were invited to seats. These brethren expressed their gratification at being present in a few appropriate remarks.

Rev. J. W. Wellons, who had been appointed to deliver the Annual Sermon, in consequence of physical inability, was relieved of the duty.

On motion, Rev. E. W. Beale and Bros. H. Harbour and Wm. Lynch were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

On motion, the Church Reports were handed in and read. Pending the reading, Conference adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

2 o'clock P. M.

Conference met. President in the chair.

Reading of the letters from churches resumed.

On motion, Revs. A. Iseley, E. W. Beale, and Bro. P. R. Harden were appointed a Committee on Church Reports.

On, motion, Conference agreed to meet each day at 9½ o'clock A. M., adjourn at 11½ A. M., meet at 1 o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

Conference then adjourned till to-morrow morning 9½ o'clock. Prayer by Rev. A. Iseley.

SATURDAY, November 18th.

Conference convened and was called to order by the President. Prayer by Rev. C. A. Apple.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Revs. J. N. Farrell and D. T. Deanes, with several lay delegates, appeared and took their seats.

On motion, Rev. A. G. Hughes, of the Presbyterian Church, was invited to a seat in Conference.

On motion, Revs. S. Apple, W. S. Long and E. W. Beale were appointed fraternal messengers to the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference; Revs. A. Iseley, Alfred Apple and W. S. Long to the Deep River Conference, and Rev. J. W. Wellons to the Valley Virginia Conference.

On motion, the letter of J. K. Gibson was referred to the Executive Committee.

On motion, Conference went into Committee of the Whole on the subject of Education. Rev. A. G. Anderson in the chair.

The committee, after discussing the subject for one and a half hours, arose and reported progress.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, Conference adjourned, to listen to a most earnest and eloquent discourse by Rev. D. A. Long. Text: John XIX chapter and 5th verse.

1 o'clock P. M.

Conference met. President in the chair.

On motion, Revs. D. T. Deanes, R. G. Tinen and Bro. G. R. Maynard were appointed a Committee on Church Records.

On motion, ministerial reports were called for, and the following responded: Revs. A. Iseley, C. A. Boon, W. S. Long, W. T. Walker, J. W. Wellons, A. G. Anderson, W. G. Clements, T. Truitt, R C. Tuck, and E. W. Beale.

The reports were encouraging, and showed that the Lord had blessed the labors of His servants.

On motion, the Secretary was requested to condense the reports and insert them in the minutes for publication.

On motion, the ministers who had not prepared their reports, were requested to do so, and hand them in during the session of Monday.

A letter from Rev. Alfred Apple was read, regretting that circumstances beyond his control had prevented his being present.

On motion, Conference agreed to hold its next annual session with the church at Shallow Well, Moore county, N. C.

Rev. A. G. Anderson was appointed to deliver the annual sermon, and Rev. S. Apple alternate.

On motion, Revs. J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, and W. G. Clements were appointed to prepare a preamble and resolutions in connection with the death of Rev. Anthony Franks.

On motion, Conference agreed to have the minutes published in the "Christian Annual."

Conference then adjourned to Monday morning, 9½ o'clock. Prayer by Rev. D. T. Deanes.

MONDAY, November 20th.

The Conference convened. President in the chair. Prayer by Rev. T. G. Craven.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The Committee on Temperance submitted the following report:

REPORT.

Your committee would report a greatly increased interest upon this subject within our borders during the past year. Men of intelligence and influence, who have heretofore been indifferent on this important subject, have, during the past year, labored earnestly for its advancement. But while this is the case, still many of the most talented men of our country are giving their influence in favor of intemperance, the greatest curse of our race, and one which is still dragging its thousands of victims down to perdition. Your committee would therefore urge upon all lovers of social order, cheerful homes, unclouded national councils, and who would see the Church and our holy religion rid of one of the heaviest clogs that has ever impeded its progress, to give their entire influence in favor of the great temperance reform, which so many of the good and great are endeavoring to push forward.

Respectfully submitted.

W. T. WALKER, *Chm'n.*

Rev. W. S. Long offered the following resolution, as an appendage to the report on temperance:

Resolved, That while we, as a religious denomination, do not wish to enter into political contests, yet we do wish to exert all our influence in behalf of such legislation as will eventually prohibit the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits.

The report, with the appendage, was received, and after being discussed in a spirited manner, by Revs. W. B. Wellons, W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons, C. A. Apple, J. N. Farrell, D. T. Deanes, S. Apple, A. G. Anderson, J. W. Hatch, A. Iseley, and D. A. Long, was adopted.

On motion, Rev. Wm. M. Craven, a fraternal messenger from the Deep River Conference, was invited to a seat in Conference.

On motion, Rev. D. T. Deanes was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Committee on Home Missions.

The Committee on education submitted the following partial report:

REPORT.

Your committee would beg leave to make the following partial report:

1st. That we recommend Conference to make an effort to raise four hundred ($400) dollars for the next year, in order to educate young men for the ministry.

2d. That the members of Conference be called upon at once to pledge certain amounts, either for themselves individually, or for the churches which they represent.

3d. That this amount be placed in the hands of the Educational Committee, to be disposed of as this committee may think best calculated to advance the end in view, and report its action at the next annual session of this body.

4th. That we recommend the High School of Rev. W. S. Long, at Graham, N. C., as the most suitable place for these young men to be educated, except such as are prepared for and can take a full collegiate course.

5th. That Conference devise means to raise this whole amount at the earliest day possible, by appointing suitable agents to obtain money for the purpose aforesaid; provided enough be not raised during the present sitting of Conference.

Respectfully submitted.

A. G. ANDERSON, *Chm'n.*

The importance of the subject elicited considerable discussion, pending which, Conference adjourned to 1 o'clock P. M.

1 o'clock P. M.

Conference convened.

The report on education was taken up, and after a lengthy discussion, was adopted.

In accordance with a resolution in the report on education, an effort was made, and the following churches and private individuals pledged the amounts opposite their names, for the education of young men preparing for the gospel ministry:

O'Kelly's Chapel,	$10 00	Lebanon,	$20 00
Catawba Spring,	5 00	Concord,	5 00
Pope's Chapel,	15 00	Liberty,	5 00
Hanks',	10 00	Pleasant Grove, (Va.)	5 00
Mt. Auburn,	10 00	New Elam,	5 00
Oak Level,	5 00	Pleasant Hill, (Chatham)	10 00
Union, (Va.)	10 00	Rev. J. W. Wellons,	10 00
Union, (N. C.)	15 00	Rev. W. S. Long,	20 00
Shallow Well,	5 00	Rev. S. Apple,	10 00
Zion,	5 00	A. G. Fonville,	5 00
Damascus,	10 00	Mrs. Eliza Strader,	5 00
Antioch,	5 00	Mrs. Pattie White,	5 00
New Providence,	20 00	Mrs. E. A. Turner, (paid)	5 00
Hayes' Chapel,	10 00	Asa Klapp,	5 00
Martha's Chapel,	5 00	H. Rudd,	5 00
Apple's Chapel,	5 00	Rev. A. Iseley,	5 00
Mt. Zion,	5 00	Mrs. Nancy McCauley,	10 00
Bethlehem,	10 00	A. Whitsitt,	5 00
Bethel,	1 00	B. Hazell,	5 00
Hines' Chapel,	5 00	Rev. A. Apple,	5 00
Salem Chapel,	10 00		

Rev. Solomon Apple, J. N. Farrell and D. T. Deanes handed in ministerial reports.

On motion, the hour of 3½ o'clock P. M. to-morrow was set apart for special prayer for God's blessing upon the Church.

On motion, Revs. W. S. Long, A. Iseley and E. W. Beale were appointed to prepare rules of order for the government of our annual conferences, and report the same at the next session of this body.

On motion, the committee appointed at the last Conference to solicit funds for tombstones to be erected over the graves of several deceased ministers, was allowed until next Conference to report.

On motion, the Executive Committee, composed of Revs. A. Iseley, W. S Long and E. W. Beale, were reappointed.

On motion, Conference adjourned until to-morrow morning. Prayer by Rev. W. B. Wellons.

TUESDAY, November 21st.

Conference convened. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Wellons.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The Committee on Church Records submitted the following

REPORT.

We, the Committee on Church Records, beg leave to report. Ten churches have submitted their books for our inspection, viz: Mt. Auburn, Pleasant Hill, (Chatham,) Apple's Chapel, New Elam, Hayes' Chapel, Pope's Chadel, Mt. Bethel, New Providence, Martha's Chapel, and Concord, whose records we find kept in accordance with our Form of Government.

We would urge delinquent churches to send up their church records in the future.

Respectfully submitted.

D. T. DEANES, *Chm'n.*

On motion, the report was received and adopted.

The committee appointed to prepare a preamble and resolutions in connection with the death of Rev. Anthony Franks, submitted the following:

Whereas, in the providence of God, Rev. Anthony Franks has recently passed from the labors and sorrows of life, to the reward of the righteous in the bright world above; therefore,

Resolved, That while we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things right, yet we will ever cherish in our memory his meek and quiet spirit—

his gentle demeanor—his devotion to the principles of the Church of his choice, and his faithfulness in preaching the Word.

Resolved, That this preamble and resolutions be published with the minutes of the Conference, and that a copy be sent to the family of our deceased brother.

J. W. WELLONS, *Chm'n.*

The report called forth feeling remarks from Revs. J. W. Wellons, J. N. Farrell, and W. B. Wellons, after which it was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

The committee appointed to look after the interests of the Colored Christian Conference, made the following

REPORT.

I have looked after the interests of the Colored Conference during the year, giving it all the assistance I could without neglecting my own pastoral labor.

I attended their annual Conference at its last session, and was gratified to find the improvement made by them.

At their last session they took steps to establish for themselves a high school, to be located in the town of Franklinton, and will look to the parent body for a teacher when their house is completed. At their last Conference they had an addition of seven new churches, making in all about twenty-nine.

They now have nine elders and eleven licentiates, making a total of twenty ministers, and a membership of about 1,500.

Respectfully submitted.

J. W. WELLONS, *Chm'n.*

Remarks were offered by Revs. J. W. Wellons, E. W. Beale, R. C. Tuck and Bro. J. H. Fleming, after which the report was adopted.

On motion, Revs. J. W. Wellons and E. W. Beale were appointed superintendents of the Colored Christian Conference.

The Executive Committee offered the following

REPORT.

The Executive Committee ask leave to report:

Shortly after the last session of this body, we met in Graham, and after some deliberation, we concluded that some action was necessary in reference to the church property in Newbern, N. C., Sharon, Mecklenburg county, Va., and Reece's, Charlotte county, Va.; but not having satisfactory knowledge of the exact condition, &c., of these houses, we were unable to adopt decisive measures in regard to them. We, therefore, ask this Conference to adopt some plan of action, or inform the committee what to do concerning them.

Nothing else has claimed our attention during the past year.

Respectfully submitted.

A. ISELEY, *Chm'n.*

Remarks were offered by Rev. W. S. Long and others, after which the report was adopted.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Wellons was appointed to visit the destitute churches mentioned in the report, and confer with the trustees of the same.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered to the friends in the neighborhood of Mt. Zion, for their hospitality to members of

Conference; also, to the officers of railroads for half-fare tickets.

The committee appointed at the last Conference to take charge of the funds raised for the education of Bros. W. W. Staley and Peter T. Klapp, submitted the following

REPORT.

We placed Bros. Staley and Klapp in Rev. W. S. Long's High School, in Graham, last January, and continued them there until June. Bro. Staley was then sent to Trinity College, where he is now. Bro. Klapp is yet in Bro. Long's school. We have received one hundred and fourteen ($114) dollars which we have paid out for their benefit. Below we give the amounts subscribed and paid, viz:

O'Kelly's Chapel	subscribed.....	$10 00,	paid.....		$ 5 00
Pope's Chapel	"	10 00,	"		10 00
Hanks' Chapel	"	10 00,	"		
Mt. Auburn	"	10 00,	"		10 00
Union, Va.	"	10 00,	"		10 00
Union, N. C.	"	5 00,	"		16 70
Wake Chapel	"	10 00,	"		
Damascus	"	8 00,	"		8 00
New Providence	"	25 00,	"		
Apple's Chapel	"	5 00,	"		7 25
Salem Chapel	"	5 00,	"		
Mt. Zion	"	10 00,	"		1 80
Bethlehem	"	10 00,	"		3 25
Hines'	"	10 00,	"		5 00
Lebanon	"	10 00,	"		10 00
Concord	"	5 00,	"		5 00
Pleasant Grove, Va.	"	5 00,	"		3 00
Mt. Pisgah	"	5 00,	"		
Pleasant Hill	"	5 00,	"		
Rev. A. Iseley	"	5 00,	"		6 00
Charles Maynard	"	5 00,	"		
Rev. A. Apple	"	5 00,	"		5 00
Rock Hill	"	5 00,	"		
Rev. J. W. Wellons,	"	5 00,	"		5 00
		$203 00			$114 00

The residue, $89, we trust will be paid in at once. We will need it in paying off expenses incurred during the past year. There will be a balance after defraying all debts of about $50, which will be appropriated hereafter to the intended use.

Respectfully submitted.

A. ISELEY, *Chm'n.*

On motion, the report was received and adopted.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted the following

REPORT.

Your committee desire to submit their annual report on Sunday Schools:

This noble institution has been gradually advancing in usefulness for several years. Its beneficent and salutary effects have been realized in almost every section of our wide-spread country. It has engaged the attention of all classes of the people, and elicited earnest co-operation. All thinking men now acknowledge it a mighty instrumentality for good. In this Conference it is accomplishing a great and glorious work for God. The little band of Sunday School advocates and workers that moved among us some years ago, has grown to a multitude. Every year we put on new strength, and, we trust, it will not be long before all the membership of our Church will be aroused to a proper sense of its importance.

We are pained to say that it has been neglected in several of our churches during the past year. Some one is to blame. The pastors of these churches have either failed to do their duty, or the laymen have.

Twenty schools, with 110 teachers and 1,228 scholars, have been reported to the committee; 117 of these have been converted during the year.

The question is often asked, what shall we teach in the Sunday School? We answer, the doctrines of the Bible, the religion of the blessed Jesus—teach Christ crucified to the children—teach them these things doctrinely. God will bless and sanctify such teaching to the salvation of the children. If we fail to bring them to Jesus, then our main purpose is lost.

There are three ways by which instruction may be imparted to children impressively: 1. By interrogatories. There are ways by which questions may be asked so that lasting impressions can be made on the mind. 2. By lectures. This is an effectual way of inculcating truth. All who have practiced it acknowledge its utility. 3. By black-board exercises. The eye assists the ear in gathering information, and increases the impressiveness. We would further recommend all engaged in this work to select and place in the hands of the children the best books and papers to be obtained. The Manual and Catechism prepared by Rev. C. A. Apple will be found of great advantage. The "Sunday School Herald," published at Dayton, Ohio, is well suited to children. The "Christian Sun" and "Sunday School Times" will assist all concerned in this calling.

The children should be taught to sing. This we ought not to neglect. We must also learn them to contribute towards all things connected with the Sunday School, and thus prepare the way for their future usefulness.

Respectfully submitted.

W. S. LONG, *Chm'n.*

Several soul-stirring speeches were made on the subject of Sabbath Schools by Revs. W. S. Long, C. A. Apple, D. A. Long, A. G. Hughes, and W. B. Wellons, after which, the report was unanimously adopted.

Rev. A. G. Anderson offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That we highly approve and heartily endorse the "CHRISTIAN SUN," as now conducted, and most warmly recommend it to our people as worthy of their patronage and support, considering it as we do, a most faithful exponent of our principles, and a most effective organ through which the interests of our Church are fully brought before the public.

The resolution was advocated by Rev. A. G. Anderson, and pending its consideration Conference adjourned for 30 minutes.

2 o'clock P. M.

Conference met.

The subject of the CHRISTIAN SUN was taken up. Revs. C. A. Apple, W. B. Wellons, and Bro. A. Moring spoke on the subject, after which the resolution was adopted.

An additional report upon the subject of education was presented, as follows:

Your Committee on Education ask leave to submit an additional report.

Nine young men have applied for admission into the Biblical Class. Some of these are young men of much promise, and will be continued in school. There are others

whose merits we have yet to consider, and will receive proper attention. There is no present demand for the licensure of any member of this class. No candidate for ordination has appeared before us.

W. S. LONG, *Chm'n.*

On motion, the report was received and adopted.

The Chair announced the following standing committees:

On Education—Revs. W. S. Long, A. G. Anderson, and E. W. Beale.

Home Missions—Revs. J W. Wellons, D. T. Deanes, and Bro. A. Moring.

Sabbath Schools—Revs. W. G. Clements, C. A. Boon, and Bro. J. M. Smith.

Temperance—Revs. W. T. Walker, J. N. Farrell, and Bro. Thos. B. Farrar.

The Committee on Home Missions submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions beg leave to announce the following appointments for the ensuing year:

E. W. Beale to preach at Mt. Zion, Damascus, King's School House, and New Providence.
J. W. Wellons at Mt. Auburn, Pope's Chapel, and Fuller's.
W. T. Walker at Salem Chapel, Hines', and Mt. Bethel.
A. G. Anderson at Concord and Bird's School House.
C. A. Boon at Zion, Shallow Well, and Moore Union.
W. S. Long, Principal of Graham High School and Pastor of New Providence.
A. Iseley at Union, N. C., Shallow Ford, Apple's Chapel, and Bethlehem.
W. G. Clements at Christian Chapel, New Elam, and Hayes' Chapel.
S. Apple at Mt. Pisgah and Pleasant Grove.
D. T. Deanes at Liberty School House.
T. J. Fowler at Hanks' Chapel and Martha's Chapel.
J. N. Farrell at Pleasant Hill, (Johnson,) Wake Chapel, Pleasant Spring, and Lockville.
A. Apple at Union, Va., and O'Kelly's Chapel.
R. C. Tuck to be supplied by the Chairman of the Committee on Home Missions.
J. W. Hatch at Pleasant Hill (Chatham) and Antioch.
H. B. Hayes, without labor, at his own request.
R. G. Tinnen at Bethel and Pleasant Grove (Chatham.)
W. H. Franks at Smyrna and Pleasant Union.
P. W. Allen, Principal of Allen's Institute, Rock Hill,
P. R. Jones, united with the Baptists.
L. Lambeth, in Indiana.
C. Allen at Midway.
L. C. Madison, without labor.
Thos. Truitt, without labor.

The report, after some remarks from Revs. J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, J. N. Farrell, A. Iseley and E. W. Beale, was adopted.

On motion, the name of P. R. Jones was dropped from the list of licentiates.

Rev. A. Iseley offered the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That we need and must have a school of high grade under the control and patronage of this and other Conferences in North Carolina.

2 *Resolved,* That we now proceed to get up a joint stock company of $100 a share, for this purpose.

3. *Resolved,* That when all is subscribed that can be obtained here, that the Educational Committee appoint an agent to solicit further stock, and report through the "SUN" the course decided upon.

4. *Resolved,* That until such location be agreed upon, and such school is established, we recommend the High School, at Graham, under the control of Rev. W. S. Long, as worthy the patronage of this body.

The resolutions, after being discussed, were adopted.

The Committee on Church Reports submitted the following form, which was adopted:

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

For the Conference year commencing Nov. 1st, 18—, and ending Nov. 1st, 18—.

The Church at, county of, State of

OFFICERS:

Pastor, Rev.....
Deacons.....and
Secretary.....
Collector.....
Treasurer.....

STATISTICS.

Number reported at last session.....	
Number received since.....	
Dismissed by letter.....	
Withdrawn.....	
Died.....	
Expelled.....	
Total number of present membership	

SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

Number of Schools.....	
Number of Bible Classes.....	
Number of Officers and Teachers.....	
Number of Pupils.....	
Number of Volumes in Library.....	

FINANCES.

Amount paid the Pastor.....		
To Educate Young Preachers.....		
For the Establishment of Schools.....		
For other purposes.....		
Total.....		

What is the value of your Church property? $.....
How often do you have regular preaching?
Are your Quarterly Meetings regularly held?
Are the Sacraments duly observed?
Is a Prayer Meeting kept up in the Church?
Delegates to Conference:
Alternates:

GENERAL REMARKS.

Signed in behalf of the Church.

.....Secretary.

A letter from J. J. Greeson, a fraternal messenger from the Christian Union denomination, in Missouri, was read, and, on motion, was referred to the Executive Committee.

The hour of 3½ o'clock P. M. having arrived, according to a previous resolution, Conference occupied forty minutes in religious exercises. Special prayer was offered for the Church, and God, in answer to the same, blessed the souls of His children, and the season was a refreshing one.

Conference then adjourned, to meet with the church at Shallow Well, Moore county, N. C., on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in November, 1872.

S. APPLE, *President.*

E. W. BEALE, *Secretary.*
W. S. LONG, *Ass't Sec'y.*

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

A. Iseley.—preached to four churches; delivered about 80 sermons; received into fellowship 45; baptized 40. My labors have been blessed.

J. W. Wellons.—Had the pastoral charge of five churches; delivered about 145 sermons; witnessed the conversion of 113 souls; received 67 into fellowship.

J. N. Farrell.—Had the pastoral charge of three churches, and preached at Lockville. My churches are in a good condition. Conversions, 83; accessions, 48; baptized 34; married 3 couples.

R. C. Tuck.—Labored a part of the year in the North Carolina and Virginia Conference. Had three appointments. The Lord has blessed my labors. Feel more determined than ever to enter fully into the work of the ministry.

J. W. Hatch.—Have been engaged most of the year at my appointments. Attended eleven protracted meetings, and feel encouraged from the result of my labors.

W. S. Long.—Had the pastoral charge of New Providence and preached at Company Shops. Visited the Deep River Conference. Continued the exercises of a school during the year Have reason to be thankful for Divine favors, and trust that my humble labors have been blessed.

C. A. Boon.—Had the pastoral charge of three churches, two of which are in a prosperous condition. Hope to be able to devote more time to pastoral work. The Lord has blessed my labors.

W. G. Clements.—Had the pastoral charge of three churches; received into fellowship 30; baptized 34; delivered 80 sermons, and 18 Sunday School lectures. My future prospects are encouraging.

A. G. Anderson.—Had the pastoral charge of Concord and preached at Bird's School House. Witnessed the conversion of 21 souls, and received 7 into fellowship. The church is in a healthy condition.

T. Truitt.—Have been employed most of the year in the Sabbath School work, and feel that good has been accomplished.

Solomon Apple.—Had pastoral charge of three churches. Have attended seven protracted meetings, and have labored more in the work of the ministry than any one year in thirty. I regard the prospects as encouraging.

W. T. Walker.—Had the pastoral charge of three churches; received 28 into fellowship. My labors have been blessed, and I am encouraged.

D. T. Deanes.—Had the pastoral charge of Liberty. Besides my regular charge, have preached fifteen sermons, five funerals, delivered ten temperance lectures, and married nine couples.

E. W. Beale.—Had five appointments; attended seven protracted meetings, at which more than 100 souls were converted; received twelve into fellowship; tried to preach about sixty sermons, and received in way of pecuniary compensation about $400. My prospects are cheering.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Of the Churches composing the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Received	Dismissed.	Expelled.	Died.	Total.
O'Kelly's,	A. Apple,	11	2		1	123
Mt. Zion,	E. W. Beale,	1	2		1	30
Apple's Chapel,	A. Iseley,					103
Good Hope,	J. W. Wellons,	5				63
Pope's Chapel,	J. W. Wellons,	39				204
Shallow Ford,	A. Iseley,	1	1			42
Pleasant Hill, (Chatham,)	J. N. Farrell,	2			2	75
Catawba Spring,	J. N. Farrell,	17			2	67
Lebanon,	S. Apple,	15			2	40
New Elam,	W. G. Clements,	19	2		1	74
Christian Chapel,	W. G. Clements,	10	1	1	1	134
Providence,	W. S. Long,	29			5	275
Oak Level,	J. W. Wellons,	18	3		1	80
Damascus,	E. W. Beale,	2			2	67
Pleasant Hill, (Johnson,)	W. H. Franks,	5	2	2		58
Liberty Hill,	J. W. Wellons,	2		1	1	86
Wake Chapel,	J. N. Farrell,	21			4	104
Liberty School House,	D. T. Deanes,	3	1		1	18
Mt. Bethel,	W. T. Walker,	6	1		1	42
Salem Chapel,	W. T. Walker,	17				126
Hayes' Chapel,	W. G. Clements,	10				39
Moore Union,	C. A. Boon,					25
Smyrna,	W. H. Franks,	5				30
Mt. Auburn,	J. W. Wellons,					100
Bethlehem,	A. Iseley,	8			1	105
Shallow Well,	C. A Boon,		2			76
Concord,	A. G. Anderson,	7				52
Union, (Alamance,)	A. Iseley,	23				350
Zion,	C. A. Boon,	12			1	5
Bethel,	J. W. Hatch,					35
Martha's Chapel,	A. Apple,					28
Union, (Va.,)	A. Apple,	10				210
Hines' Chapel,	W. T. Walker,					27
Hanks' Chapel,	T. J. Fowler,	12				170
Antioch,	J. W. Hatch,					40
Midway,	A. Apple,					30
Pleasant Union,	W. H Franks,					20
Pleasant Grove,	S. Apple,					75
Mt. Pisgah,	S. Apple,					30
Brown's Chapel,	D. T. Deanes,					5
Rock Hill,	P. W. Allen,					50
Reece's,	S. Apple,					
		301	17	4	27	3,315

☞ For names and Post Office address of ministers, see Ministerial Directory.

MINUTES

OF THE

Valley Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

Antioch Church, Rockingham County, Va., Oct. 6th and 7th, 1871.

ANTIOCH, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA., }
October 6th, 1871. }

The VALLEY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met at this place to-day, and was called to order by the Secretary, the President of last session being absent.

The ministerial and church rolls were then read, and the following appeared and took their seats:

ELDERS.—G. W. Woods and D. A. Long.

The following delegates handed in their credentials, and were admitted to seats as members of the Conference, viz: D. F. Lineweaver, Thos. J. Cline, David E. Calhoun, Jno. R. Shafer and George A. Stillwell.

A quorum being present, Conference was opened by singing and prayer, Rev. George W. Woods officiating.

Conference then proceeded to the election of the usual officers, which resulted in the selection of Elder Geo. W. Woods, President; Elder D. A. Long, Secretary, and Rev. Calvin J. Rolston Assistant Secretary.

The next thing in order was the delivering of the introductory address. Elder G. W. Woods said that quite a number of persons were desirous of hearing Elder Long's address who were not present. On motion of Bro. David F. Lineweaver, the address was postponed until to-morrow (Saturday) 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, the letters from the various churches were then called for and read.

The churches which had been organized by Elder D. A. Long, at Linville, Dayton and Plains, also presented letters, which were read. They asked to be admitted into the Conference.

On motion, their request was granted. Their delegates then came forward and their names were enrolled: Bros. D. C. Beery, H. C. Beery, H. R. Higgins, W. J. Frankum, and J. M. Calhoun.

On motion, the President appointed the following Committee on Religious Exercises: Bros. Thos. J. Cline, D. F. Lineweaver and H. R. Higgins.

The Committee on Religious Exercises then reported, which was received and adopted: Rev. C. J. Ralston, 11 o'clock A. M; Rev. Jacob Calhoun, to-night; Rev. D. A. Long, to-morrow 12 o'clock A. M., Rev. James Harding at night; Elder D. A. Long, 11 o'clock A. M. Sunday, and Elder Geo. W. Woods, 2½ o'clock P. M. Elder George Woods at Linville at night.

Conference then adjourned for fifteen minutes; after which it again assembled to listen to the trial sermon of Rev. C. J. Ralston, from the words: "The fashion of this world passeth away." (I Cor., vii., 31.) After preaching Conference adjourned until 2½ o'clock P. M.

2½ o'clock, P. M.

Conference convened. The President in the chair. Prayer by Deacon D. F. Lineweaver. The minutes were read and approved.

The President then called for the reports of the standing committees.

The Committee on Education then submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

We have examined the following candidates for licensure: Bro. Jacob M. Calhoun, of Timberville, and Bro. C. J. Ralston, now a student at the Collegiate Institute at New Market, and recommend that they be licensed to preach the gospel as probationers.

We have also examined Dr. James A. Harding, of Rushville, who is a candidate for ordination, and recommend that he be ordained.

We recommend that this Conference make an effort, as soon as possible, to establish a school of high grade, at some central point within its bounds, for the education of the youth and friends of the Christian Church in this part of the Old Dominion.

Respectfully submitted.

D. A. LONG, *Chm'n.*

The report called forth remarks from Elders Woods and Long.

The Committee on Home Missions reported as follows, which was adopted :

REPORT.

We do not think that money could be spent in a better way in this part of Virginia, than in sending out home missionaries. In fact, there is too little of the missionary spirit among us. Three new churches have been organized during the past year. We have visited West Virginia, and some of the adjoining counties in this State, and find many places where our cause might be introduced at once. We recommend that Conference employ, if possible, a "home missionary" during the next conference year, and that he give as much of his time as possible to this good work, and also to do what we can in aiding in sending the gospel to foreign lands.

Respectfully submitted.

D. A. LONG, *Chm'n.*

The report called forth remarks from Elders Long and Woods, also, from Rev. James A. Harding and Dr. Higgins. Several inviting fields for missionaries were mentioned ; and all seemed impressed with the idea that all our churches and people should have more of the missionary spirit.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools then reported, which was received and adopted :

REPORT.

We are truly glad to be able to report that all the churches within the bounds of this Conference have had Sabbath Schools during a part or whole of the past Conference year. We are glad to say, too, that all of our ministry, and I may not be very far wrong in saying all of our members, favor Sabbath Schools. We are glad to know that some other denominations are falling into line in this work, and assisting in swelling the ranks of the mighty Sabbath School army. We trust the day is not far distant when all will appreciate this means of grace, and when the words "Go forward" shall be heard all along the line.

Respectfully submitted.

D. F. LINEWEAVER, *Chm'n.*

The subject of Sabbath Schools was earnestly discussed by both ministers and laymen. The cause is certainly on rising grounds.

The Executive Committee then presented their report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

The Executive Committee beg leave to report, that during the past Conference year they have made an effort to effect a co-operation between the two parts of the severed Conference in the Valley, but failed. However, they are not discouraged, believing that a kinder feeling exists now than before, and believing, also, that the sore must heal gradually. We look forward to the time when all who hold to the general principles of the "Christian Church," in the Valley, will work harmoniously together.

We also granted Bros. J. M. Calhoun, C. J. Ralston, and James A. Harding permission to exercise their gifts, as licentiates, when opportunity offered, until the meeting of Conference.

Respectfully submitted. D. A. LONG, *Chm'n.*

On motion of Bro. Lineweaver, Conference adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Dr. H. R. Higgins.

OCTOBER 7TH, 1871.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. The President in the chair. Prayer by Bro. Geo. A. Stillwell.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The ministers then submitted written reports of their labors during the past Conference year.

On motion of Elder D. A. Long, the following were appointed to examine the church records: Bros. D. F. Lineweaver, D. C. Beery, and George A. Stillwell.

Elder D. A. Long then offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The subject of washing the Saints' feet has produced some excitement among the members of the "Christian Church" in the Valley of Virginia—some churches and individual members believing that they have sufficient evidence from the New Testament, to warrant the practice as an ordinance of the Gospel, while other churches and individual members have no evidence that satisfies their minds of its having been practiced by the Apostles: Agreed, therefore, that all persons in connection with us have a free and lawful right to wash their feet or not, as may best answer their consciences to God; neither the performance nor neglect of which should cause a breach of Christian fellowship.

The committee appointed to examine the church records then made the following

REPORT.

We have examined the records that were presented, and find great improvement in the old, and that the new churches have been organized according to our Church Government.

Respectfully submitted.

D. F. LINEWEAVER, *Chm'n.*

The report was adopted.

Elder D. A. Long then offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the pastor of the church at Bethlehem see that trustees are appointed, and that no political meetings be held in the church.

The hour having arrived, Elder D. A. Long delivered his address.

Deacon D. F. Lineweaver offered the following, which was received and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of Conference are due, and are hereby tendered Elder D. A. Long, for the excellent address jest delivered before this Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet again at 1 o'clock P. M.

1 o'clock P. M.

Conference re-assembled at 1 o'clock P. M. The President in the chair. Prayer by Rev. Jacob M. Calhoun.

On motion, the business of appointing fraternal messengers to sister Conferences was taken up, and Elders D. A. Long and G W. Woods were elected fraternal messengers to the Eastern Virginia and North Carolina Conferences.

Elder Geo. W. Woods called the Secretary to the chair, and offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the churches of the "Valley Virginia Christian Conference" are scattered in this and other counties in the Valley; and

Whereas, it is desirable to extend, if possible, the borders of our Zion; and

Whereas, it is desirable to have some one who understands our principles well enough to exercise a general superintendence over the enterprises of the Conference: Therefore, be it—

Resolved, That Elder D. A. Long be appointed General Superintendent of the Valley Virginia Christian Conference, and that he visit as many of the quarterly and protracted meetings as possible. That he act as a Home Missionary as much as possible. That he counsel and advise with the ministers and members on all subjects relating to the welfare and prosperity of the Conference. That he urge upon the laity of all the churches the propriety of paying their pastors, in order that they may give, if possible, all their time to the ministry—to defend the doctrines of the Church—to visit as many of its members and friends as possible.

The Committee on Temperance then reported, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee have no faith in that Church which tolerates drunkenness among its members.

We are truly glad to say that we do not know of any one who claims membership among, who is either engaged in the manufacture or sale of ardent spirits as a beverage.

We rejoice in the success of all the efforts that have been put forth, in order to drive King Alcohol from the land; but we are unanimously of the opinion that the best time to teach persons of all sexes and colors, is while they are young. We recommend that our preachers, our deacons, and our members all teach and practice temperance in all things, in order that, by the grace of God, the next generation may be more temperate than the present is, or the past has been.

Respectfully submitted.

JESSE BURKHOLDER, *Chm'n.*

The President then appointed the following standing committees for the ensuing Conference year:

Education—D. A. Long, Jas. A. Harding and C. J. Rolston.

On motion of Elder D. A. Long, the name of Elder Woods was added to the committee.

Sabbath Schools—D. F. Lineweaver, H. R. Higgins, J. M. Calhoun, Geo. A. Stillwell, C. A. Henton and Jos. Coffman.

Temperance—Jesse Burkholder, D. A. Long and James A. Harding.

Executive Committee—D. A. Long and J. A. Harding.

On motion of Elder D. A. Long, the name of Elder Woods was added to the committee.

Home Missions—J. A. Harding, J. M. Calhoun, C. J. Ralston and G. W. Woods.

On motion, Elder D. A. Long was chosen to deliver the next annual sermon at the opening of the Valley Virginia Conference.

The churches at Dayton and Soliloquy were both very anxious to have the next annual Conference convene with them. Elders Woods and Harding, also Rev. J. M. Calhoun, made some very pleasant remarks in representing the inducements of each place. When the vote was taken it resulted in a tie. The President cast the deciding vote in favor of Soliloquy.

On motion of Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, the following was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That to-morrow, 10½ o'clock A. M., be set apart to license and ordain those brethren recommended by the Educational Committee.

On motion Elders Long and Woods were appointed the Ordaining Presbytery—Elder Long to preach the sermon and deliver the charge.

The Secretary then called the roll of delegates from the various churches, and they entertained the Conference with short addresses—telling how the Lord had blessed them, the prospects and condition of the cause of Christ in their community; also, who had preached for them, and whose services they desired another year.

Elder D. A. Long then presented the cause of the CHRISTIAN SUN, and urged upon the members and friends of the Christian Church to aid the publishing interests of the Church. He also explained why Elder W. B. Wellons could not be with us.

On motion of Elder D. A. Long, the Conference decided by a unanimous vote to publish the proceedings of the body in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL.

On motion, it was also decided to publish the opening address of Elder Long with the minutes.

Elder G. W. Woods then offered the following, which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

Resolved, That the thanks of Conference are due, and are hereby tendered to the brethren and friends around Antioch church, for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have treated this body during its present session.

On motion of Elder D. A. Long, Conference then adjourned to meet with the church at Soliloquy, Shenandoah county, Va., on Friday before the second Sabbath in October, 1872.

GEO. W. WOODS, *President*.

D. A. LONG, *Secretary*.
C. J. ROLSTON *Ass't Sec'y*.

ADDRESS

Delivered at the Opening of the Valley Virginia Christian Conference.

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By Rev. D. A. LONG,

Superintendent of the Valley Virginia Christian Conference.

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BRETHREN OF THE VALLEY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE:

It was made my duty to address you on this occasion, at the last annual session of this body. I have no apologies to offer. As I am speaking from my own pulpit, I will, first of all, bid you a hearty welcome to the hearts and homes of my charge in this portion of the beautiful and fertile Valley of Virginia. Your coming has gladdened all our hearts. You know that my people are possessed of every hospitality, and rest assured they will make you welcome to all. May our intercourse be mutually profitable and pleasant.

You are aware that the Christians, as a separate and distinct organization, came into existence near the close of the last century. At the first General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, Rev. James O'Kelly, and about thirty other ministers, were so dissatisfied with the arbitrary measures of the Methodist Episcopal Church that they withdrew. It was two years afterwards, while in conference in Surry county, Va., at the suggestion of Rev. Rice Haggard, one of their number, that they decided to discard all names except the one which would fully express their relation to Christ, the head of the Church, one by which the disciples were first called at Antioch—CHRISTIANS.

The Christian Church numbered about one thousand in 1794; and from that day to this their number has continued to increase. You will find those who hold to "the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Head of the Church," "the name Christian to the exclusion of all party or sectarian names," "the Holy Bible, or the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, a sufficient rule of faith and practice," and "the right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience, the privilege and duty of all," in every State from the shelving shores of the Atlantic to the rock-bound coast of the Pacific. It is true that many things have occurred among those who have pled and continue to plead so earnestly for christian union, which were unpleasant; but, brethren, I rejoice to believe that the scattered Christians are drawing closer together. God speed the day when the prayer of the Master may be fully realized. I might hastily notice several facts of interest connected with the history of the church of our choice.

The first religious newspaper ever published in the United States was published by the Christians. The principles first proclaimed by the zealous christian ministers, no doubt led to the great thoughts which ripened into action, and brought into co-operation the different Evangelical denominations, in the organization of the "American Tract Society," "American Sunday School Union," "Young Men's Christian Association," and of other kindred organizations. That portion of the Christian Church with which we co-operate, has for its organ the *Christian Sun*, published by Rev. W. B. Wellons & Co., Suffolk, Va. You will remember that Rev. Jas. O'Kelly came from the Methodist church.

The Christian Connection came into existence in a secession from the Baptists in New England, in the year 1800. Dr. Abner Jones, of Hartland, Vt., and Rev. Elias Smith, of Portsmouth, N. H., came out this year upon the name Christian, to the exclusion of all others, and with the Bible as their only creed. When Unitarianism became popular in New England, many members of this part of the Church became influenced by it. This is why we are often falsely accused, in the Valley, of being Unitarians.

In 1801, shortly after the great "Cane Ridge Revival," among the Presbyterians in Kentucky, a secession took place from the Presbyterians, led by the Rev. B. W. Stone and others. Rev. B. W. Stone eventually co-operated with Rev. Alexander Campbell, of Bethany, Va, and carried with him a large number of Christian churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, who continued to be called Christians. This is why, in many places, the Disciples, or "Campbellites," are called Christians. This is why so many are mistaken in considering the members of this Conference Campbellites. I usually say Disciples. I mean no disrespect whatever by saying Campbellites. I only desire to set the Christian Church in the Valley in its true light before the public, by showing that we, as a Conference, have no sympathy, association, or affiliation with those who either deny the divinity of Christ, or believe in water regeneration. But the principal subject to which I will direct your attention on this occasion, is the sufficiency of the Bible as a rule of faith and practice.

And I wish it to be understood, in speaking of the Bible as our only rule of faith and practice, that I include those influences of the Holy Spirit, which are promised to those who study it carefully and prayerfully.

I often speak of the Bible as our only creed. "Why," says one, "have you no creed of your own?" Certainly I have. Every one present has a creed. The word creed comes from the Latin "credo," and means "I believe." And just what you believe, is your creed. But let it be remembered, that in this argument "creed" means not articles of belief, but articles made authoritative tests. But what is the substitution of any other creed besides the Bible? Not the publishing, in book form, of a system of doctrines which any man, or body of men, suppose to be contained in the Bible. Not the publication of a "Declaration of Principles, Form of Government, and Directory for the Worship of God," showing what is generally believed and practiced by any conference or convention. It is right to compare, to harmonize to systematize; it is right to publish, to defend, to propagate. This is not what your speaker means by substitution.

I shall argue, first, the sufficiency of the Bible for doctrine. This specification covers all the truth on all subjects necessary to make wise unto salvation. The Greek word "*didaskalia*," translated "doctrine" in the New Testament, embraces all truth which will ever be necessary for us to understand, and all that it will ever be necessary for us to show to others. I maintain that the Bible contains the whole truth necessary for the edification of the body of Christ, that when its truths are admitted to the mind as they should be, it "is able," by an omnipotent power, "to make wise unto salvation." The Bible is a teacher.

But just at this point you may raise an objection. It is said that truth is one, and because honest minds differ, proves that the Bible is not a sufficient teacher. Never was there a greater Jesuitical delusion.

The doctors present might as well tell me, medicine is one, and therefore, unless patients all take the same dose they never can be cured. The fact is, truth, like medicine, if it be one, is yet multitudinous; and minds, like diseases, are various. I say it is an utter impossibility to create absolute unity of belief. I would just as soon andertake to drill a hole in one of those large limestone rocks near the Academy with a tallow candle, or circumnavigate the world in a paper boat, as to make every one think alike. Let it ever be remembered, that the only unity that will ever be attained before the resurrection of the just, on earth, will be a unity of thinking differently, in love. Of all usurpations of the Divine prerogative, which have desolated the church of God, that of testing church fellowship by OPINION, instead of by experience and practice, is the most ruinous.

Minds differ, like everything that God ever made, or the devil ever marred; but I rejoice to believe, that out of the inexhaustible store of truth in the Word of God, it will fit to each mind that can be saved that particular truth necessary to save that mind. In this respect the blessed Bible is a living miracle among us. I believe that many men have gone to heaven, who once disputed about what they thought to be fundamental truths. The constitutional diversity of their minds was so great, the knowledge possible for them to obtain so limited, the themes in question so vast, their logical medium so imperfect, that they contended about what they thought was fundamental, when God saw that they agreed as to what was really fundamental.

I will notice, in the next place, the Bible is sufficient for reproof, and that the man of God who uses his Bible aright, is "perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" in this respect. "In every day, go-to-mill language," as Prof. Chas. Phillips,

D.D., of the University, used to say, "the keeping the Church pure from heresy." That this is the force of the Greek term "Elengchon," will be perceived by any one who will compare the New Testament usage on this word, and its parent verb. The Bible not only teaches truth—it kills error. You may ask me what is the surest way of testing an error claiming scriptural support. I say, call it to the spot where it claims parentage, and call in the rest of the scripture to testify.

I notice, in the third place, that the Bible is sufficient for correction. There is not an offence against Christ, nor against his cause, which cannot be brought to conviction by the Bible. And I say that in every instance, the Bible is sufficient for correction.

And is it not sufficient, too, for instruction in righteousness? The Bible can never be outgrown. Other books that please our infant life, fall off and grow stale to our maturer age. Not so with God's Word The same passage that gladdened the child of ten, will charm the gray-haired mother of eighty.

For the inculcation of all truth necessary to salvation; for the refutation of error and exterpation of heresy; for the conduct of discipline, whether of presbyters or laity; for the education of children and adults in personal holiness and practical morality, the Bible is so far profitable that therewith the man of God is "perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

These are theological questions, about which intellectual gladiators have fought since the days of Adam, and when they have done they can only say: "Well, it is a mystery," or something of the kind. Now why is this? Man's mind is finite—the teachings of the Bible infinite. Humbly must the wisest man living confess that there is scarcely a question started in God's Word which does not depend for its complete solution on facts and relations unseen; which does not revolve in an orbit so vast that the small arc we see, cannot afford the elements necessary to form a calculation; which does not "sweep out far beyond our horizon, and link in with invisible emergencies."

Now for any man, or set of men—I care not to whose church they may belong, how many titles they may have, how old, or how wise—to undertake to say what the Bible teaches precisely in every respect, to write this down, and publish it in a book and say, "This is the system of doctrines taught in the Word of God." and then to go on and require the acceptance of that book by every candidate for licensure or ordination, as a test of his qualification, is great presumption. It is about as daring as for the astronomer to say "this is the system of astronomy," ignorant, as yet, on what unknown path, about what unknown centre, our sun is traveling; as daring as for the geologist to say, "this is the system of the earth," when the wisest of them are perfectly ignorant of what is twenty miles below the surface, while they would have to go nearly four thousand miles further before they would come to the centre; as conceited as for the chemist or physiologist to say, "this is the system of chemistry or physiology," ignorant, as yet, of the nature of electricity, or the vital principle. Could you find an academy of science to say, "this is the system of universal science?" Not one. Why? Just because there is not a science in the sisterhood yet out of swadling bands.

I claim that the making of authoritative creeds is nothing but a radical feature of Romanism, revived under a Protestant form, just as really as saint worship was a radical feature of Paganism, revived under a Christian form.

God declares that Christ as a mediator is perfect. Rome declares that Christ and the Saints, as mediators, are perfect. How did Saint worship begin? In a pious, decent respect for the memory of the martyrs. Nothing more. In cherishing and defending their memories. It was fostered, creeping step by step from affectionate remembrance to respectful veneration—from respectful veneration to superstitious adoration, by such men as Eusebius, Theodoret, Basil the Great, Gregory Nazianzen, Gregory Nysen, Chrysostrom, and almost all the fathers of the fourth and fifth centuries.

Innocently it flourished in their unsuspicious hands, and peacefully and piously it passed beyond their day to a horrid consummation. So it was with fasting from meats. So it was with forbidding to marry. So with every feature of Romish apostacy.

How many good men now-a-days shrink from any harsh word against creeds, and against their General Councils, Assemblies, Synods, Conventions and Conferences not having the power to lord it over God's people, and say just what the Bible teaches on

all subjects. But what more does Rome claim than the sole right of interpreting the Bible? But how came Rome with all this power? I answer, in the voice of history, by creed making. It was the creed-making power which began over one hundred years after our Saviour was upon the earth, and which crept slowly and stealthily forward, was first exercised in a general council in the fourth century, and which afterwards centered in the Vatican, and set its veto on the Bible. The making of an authoritative creed was the first step—the prohibition of the Bible was the last step.

Now, I am going to show you some facts in regard to creeds, and I will call in some witnesses who have gone before us, and hear what they say. There are not many men now-a-days who have moral courage enough to break the handcuff of sectarianism, and resist the thumb-screw of criticism. Our theological students spend three or four years at college, and many of them three years at the seminary. This is very good. I favor an educated ministry. If the learned professors would only say, in the language of Paul—2 Tim., iii., 16, 17—"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished;" and if the Biblical student should commence by supposing this or supposing that, tell him that Paul told Timothy, "unto all good works." But the student is about to leave the seminary. He may be what the world calls a fine scholar. But he looks before him, and he sees an authorized statement, spiked down and stereotyped, of what he MUST find in the Bible, or be martyred. He is self-distrustful, generally poor, often in debt. The whole boasted liberty of the theological student in most of the seminaries in this and other countries consists in a choice of chains—a choice of hand cuffs—whether he will wear the Methodist handcuff, the Presbyterian handcuff, the Baptist handcuff, or some other Evangelical handcuff. But one says I know we have a creed. "First pure, then peaceable." We must have a creed to keep out heresy. And which side is heresy? "*Quod semper, quod ubique, quod ab omnibus*,"—that is, heresy is the opinion which is in the minority. Yes, shear off the troublesome thinkers, and sing stagnant hallelujahs. This is the policy of Rome, the "mother of harlots." But another sectarian says we are contending for "the faith once delivered unto the Saints," and our church is right, all others are wrong, and we must have a creed in order to keep the church pure, the church always had an authoritative creed outside of the Bible. No one but a narrow-minded and ignorant bigot would say such a thing. The apostolic churches, during the whole of the first century, had no creed but the Bible. But another says the Apostles did have a creed. Hear what Mosheim says: "There is, indeed, extant, a brief summary of christian doctrines, called the Apostles' creed, and which from the fourth century onward, was attributed to Christ's ambassadors themselves; but at this day, all who have any knowledge of antiquity, confess unanimously that this opinion is a mistake, and has no foundation." And when it was made, it was not used as a test. In fact, there were no such authoritative tests in existence during nearly the whole of the first two centuries. Let me introduce another witness. Waddington, in his Church History, p. 45, says: "*The first Christians used no written creed.* * * The earliest pastors of the church drew their belief from the Scripture itself, as delivered to them by writing or preaching, and they were *contented to express that belief in the* LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE. They were not curious to investigate that which is not clearly revealed; but they adhered faithfully to that which they *knew* to be true. Therefore, their variations were without schism, and their differences without acrimony." I will remind my Episcopal friends that Waddington was an Episcopalian. Authoritative creeds were never heard of until after COUNCILS appeared. The modern forms of Presbyteries, Synods, and Assemblies, were unknown. The first idea of them was undoubtedly borrowed from the political world. Before, each church was independent, all the members equal. Each church chose her own officers, and each church was a presbytery in itself. The idea of an authoritative creed is exclusively political. "These councils," says Mosheim, "of which no vestige appears before the middle of this (second) century, changed nearly the whole form of the church, for by them, in the first place, the ancient rights and privileges of the people were very much abridged; and, on the other hand, the influence and authority of the Bishops were not a little augmented." They soon formed a HIERARCHY, and assumed more and more authority until Anno Domini 325, when the first General Council was called and the "Nicean Creed" was formed. This may well be called the birth-place of spiritual shackles. Let me now introduce another witness, who flourished immediately after the Council

of Nice. I refer to Hilary, Bishop of Poictiers. He says: "We cannot be ignorant that since the Council of Nice, we have done nothing but make creeds. And while we fight against *words*, litigate about *new questions*, dispute about equivocal *terms*, complain of authors, that every one may make his own party triumph; while we cannot agree; while we anathematize one another, there is hardly *one* that adheres to JESUS CHRIST! What change was there not in the creed last year? The first council ordained a silence on the *homodusian;* the second established it, and bids us speak; the third excuses the fathers of the council; the fourth condemns, instead of excusing them. With respect to the *likeness* of the Son of God to the Father, which is the faith of our deplorable times, they dispute whether he is like in whole or in part. These are rare folks to unravel the secrets of heaven. Nevertheless, it is for these creeds, about invisible mysteries, that we calumniate one another; not for our belief in God. We make creeds every year; nay, every moon. We repent of what we have done—we defend those that repent—we anathamatize those that we defended. So that we condemn, either the doctrine of others in ourselves, or our own in that of others. And reciprocally tearing one another to pieces, we have been the cause of each others' ruin!" Thus you see how things went on after the Council of Nice. By whose authority was this council called? Says another: By the authority of Christ? No. It was called by a man who was not even a member of the Christian Church—a man who was an Emperor, and that of Rome.

The Roman Emperor, by his absolute political power, assembled a General Council of the Christian Church! Three hundred and eighteen Bishops fully settled the doctrines taught in the Bible; banished Arius into Illyria, and compelled his followers to subscribe. Thus, you see, the creed-making power, unknown to apostolic times, was purely a political idea, and after they had masked and gagged the Bible with creed upon creed, fable upon fable, tradition upon tradition, this power lodged at last in the Papal chair, and launched imperial thunders against the Bible itself. I ask, in all candor, is Denomination creed-power any better than Catholic creed-power? Now, just listen to one example. It took three hundred and twenty-five years to produce the Nicene creed; but it took one Protestant denomination only forty years to turn what their own Assembly scouted as an unwarrantable imposition, into an iron rule. When the Westminister Assembly of Divines formed their Confession and Catechisms, it was proposed by the Scotch Commissioners, that the answers of the shorter catechism should be subscribed by the members of that body; the proposal was rejected, after discussion, as an "unwarrantable imposition." Behold what a change in less than half a century! Allow me to introduce another witness for the Bible alone. We will now hear M. D'Aubigne, the great historian of the Reformation:

"*Fourth feature of the Christian and Theological character*—SUBMISSION TO THE WORD. St. Paul, at the end of the chapter which has been read, (2 Tim., iii., 16, 17,) affirms two things; the first is, that the word of God will fit the christian to DO all that there is to do in the church—thoroughly furnished for ALL GOOD WORKS. The second is, that the man formed by the word of God will BE all that a christian ought to be—'perfect,' &c.

"Thus," continues D'Aubigne, "the ALL SUFFICIENCY of the Word is clearly established. Gentlemen, if it be essential for soldiers to be well acquainted with the arms with which they are to fight, ought we not rightly to know what that 'armor of righteousness' is which we are to hold 'on the right hand and on the left,' viz: the 'WORD OF TRUTH.' (2 Cor., vi., 7.) Resist every temptation to have recourse to other authority and to other arms. With the word of Christ, you can do all that you ought to do. It alone is the 'sword of the spirit.'

"If, therefore, any offer you as a rule, traditions, either of the earlier ages or of the Reformation, *reject them*. The Scriptures uniformly teach that we are regenerated and sanctified, only when we have faith in the Word.

"Let us, therefore, keep to the word, gentlemen. Endure, I implore you, my reiterated entreaties in regard to it. THE WORD, AND NOTHING BUT THE WORD. Not, indeed, a dead letter, but the Word with light; the word with the fullness of life that is in it; the Word and the strength of salvation that God has deposited in it. The Word, and not the Pope, nor the clergy, nor any imaginable human power. The Word of Jesus Christ—that is to say, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF. That is the ONLY POWER whose sovereign and perpetual authority in the church we ought to acknowledge."—*From N. Y. Evan. Aug.* 21, 1845.

Who could have shown more clearly the spirit of the glorious reformation, than M. D'Aubigne has done in the above remarks, which have been taken from some of his addresses. But another says, "I see there are so many denominations that say they take the Bible for their creed, and I see that heretics will subscribe to the Scriptures." Now let me introduce another witness. [My father often sits under a beautiful shade tree, near his humble mansion, and reads "Baxter's Saint's Rest."] Richard Baxter, in speaking of creeds, says:

"Though we would subscribe to the whole Scripture, or any confession drawn up in its phrase and matter, yet this will not serve for union and communion. They tell us heretics may subscribe to the Scriptures; and I tell them, that heretics may subscribe also to their confessions, and force a sense of their own upon them; and that God never left them to make better confessions, and fitter to discover heresy, than Scripture doth afford.

"The Papists have set up whole volumes of councils and decrees for the rule, forsooth, because the Scripture is dark and all heretics plead Scripture. And what have they done by it, but cause more darkness, and set the world, and their own doctors, too, in greater contentions.

"Thus men lose themselves and abuse the Church, because God's word will not serve their turn as a rule for us to unite upon. This is the one rule that God hath left, and men will needs blame this as insufficient, and mend God's works by the devices of their addle brains, and then complain of divisions, when they have made them.

"The rule that all must agree in, must be made by one that is above all, and whose authority is acknowledged by all. Never will the Church have full unity till the Scripture sufficiency be more generally acknowledged. You complain of many opinions and ways, and many you will still have, till the one rule, the Scripture, be the standard of our religion.

"Two things have set the Church on fire, and been the plagues of it above one thousand years: 1st. Enlarging our creed, and making more fundamentals than ever God made. 2. Composing, and so *im*posing our creeds and confessions in our own words and phrases." I will now introduce a witness with whom many of you are personally acquainted—Rev. W. B. Wellons I heard him in his "Opening Address" at the last Convention held in Suffolk, Va., May 6th, 1870, when he said:

"The platform upon which we stand is, to my mind, the only one upon which the christian world can ever unite. CHRIST is the only head upon which all can ever agree. The name CHRISTIAN is the only one which all can ever consent to wear. The BIBLE is the only rule of faith which all can accept, and the right of PRIVATE JUDGMENT must be accorded, or there can be no union. A moment's reflection," says this profound thinker. "must satisfy all who desire union that no other bond will answer the purpose than that which we lay down."

These words gushed forth, in majestic freedom, from one whose heart I believe to be free from mean sectarianism, narrow-minded bigotry, and paltry monopoly. And, while speaking of living witnesses in that part of the Christian Church with which we are co-operating, I cannot fail to mention a few others: Fathers Fowler and Iseley, Rev. W. S. Long, the Principal of the High School in Graham, Anderson, S. and A. Apple, Beale and Farrell, J. W. Wellons and Walker, Boon and Deanes, of the North Carolina Conference; Brown, of the Deep River Conference; Smith, of the Georgia Conference; Gant, of the Tennessee Conference; Rev. C. A. Apple, of Level Green, Va., one of the profound thinkers and able correspondents of the *Christian Sun*; Rev. J. T. Whitley, of Richmond College, who has given proof that he is a young man of no ordinary talents; R. H. Holland, the worthy pastor of Holy Neck; Barrett of Sussex, and Barrett of Norfolk; and last, but not least, Rev. J. N. Manning, who is a worthy member of this (Antioch) church, and who was born and reared among you, but who has left his own beautiful and fertile Valley, and is now laboring earnestly and successfully in building up the cause of our Zion in and around the "City by the Sea." I think of many others, not only in the ministry but among the laity, but time would fail me to mention their names. Let me now introduce another witness. I refer to the distinguished Methodist commentator, Dr. Adam Clark, on 2 Cor., I., 24. He says:

"But shall any others, who are not apostles, who are not under the unerring and infallible influence of the Holy Ghost, arrogate to themselves this dominion of the faith of mankind? Not only insisting on them to receive *new* doctrines, taught nowhere by apostles or apostolic men; but also threatening them with perdition if

they do not credit doctrines which are *opposed* to the very spirit and letter of the Word of God? These things men, not only not apostles, but wicked, profligate, and ignorant, have insisted on as their *right!* Did they succeed? Yes, for a time. And that time was a time of thick darkness; a darkness that might be felt; a darkness producing nothing but misery; a lengthening out and deepening of the shadow of death! But the light of God shone—the Scriptures were read. Those vain and wicked pretensions were brought to the eternal *touch-stone*. And what was the consequence? The splendor of truth pierced, dissipated, and annihilated them forever.

"British Protestants have learned, and Europe is learning, that the Sacred Writings, and they alone, contain what is necessary for faith and practice; and that no man, number of men, society, church, council, presbyter, consistory, or conclave has dominion over any man's faith. THE WORD OF GOD ALONE IS HIS RULE, and to its Author he is to give account for the use he has made of it."

Will you now hear the great Reformer, John Wesley? He says:

"From the very beginning, (of the Methodist society), from the time that four young men (Wesley and three others) united together, each of them was *homo unius libri*, 'a man of one book.' God taught them all to make his word a lantern unto their feet, and a light in all their paths. They had one, and *only one* rule of judgment with regard to all their tempers, words, and actions, namely, the ORACLES OF GOD. They were, one and all, determined to be Bible christians. They were continually reproached with this very thing; some terming them, in derision, 'Bible bigots,' others, 'Bible moths,' 'feeding,' they said, 'as moths do upon cloth.' And, indeed, unto this day, it is their constant endeavor to think and speak as the oracles of God."—Sermon 112.

Again, "I want to know one thing—the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way. For this very end he (his son) came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. Oh, give me that book! I have it! Here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be 'HOMO UNIUS LIBRI'—that is, 'give me no book but the Bible.'"

But let me now bring forward Robert Hall. Discarding all creeds, Mr. Hall says:

"The advancement of the Bible as the GREAT AND ONLY STANDARD of christian faith and practice, is a fourth remarkable feature of our times. The Scriptures have always been, professedly, received as the highest authority among christians; but never was that authority so publicly and completely recognized as in the present age. Never before was there such a universal consent among christians as to the supremacy and sufficiency of the Bible in all religious questions; never before was the maxim of Chillingworth so practically acknowledged, that 'the Bible, the Bible alone is the religion of Protestants.' In all disputed points, it is now agreed that we should appeal solely to 'the law and the testimony,' and where these are silent, we should imitate their silence."—Sermon on the Signs of the Times.

I will remind my Baptist friends that Rev. Mr. Hall was a Baptist; but he is styled the "glory and shame of Baptists!" Their glory because of his greatness; their shame because he was opposed to close communion. I rejoice to see such men as Chambliss, of Richmond, and Hooper of North Carolina, following in his footsteps. The *Baptist Union* says that since last January nineteen Baptist ministers have declared themselves open communionists. I think this is making progress in the right direction. I believe there are others who will soon break the handcuffs; but poor, timorous mortals, they are afraid to preach the truth.

I hear much said about the true church. Every sectarian bigot thinks his church is the only true church. They tell you, too, that those who commune with "the unworthy," partake of their sins. That if you partake of the emblems of the Saviour's dying love with those who are not truly his obedeint servants, you will have to answer for their sins. I presume, then, that Peter, James, John, and the other apostles, will have to share part of the guilt of Judas. But allow me to introduce the renowned christian philosopher, John Locke. He says:

"But since men are solicitous about the *true church*, I would only ask them here, by the way, if it be not more agreeable to the church of Christ, to make the conditions of her communion to consist in such things, and such things only, as the Holy Spirit has, in the Holy Scriptures, declared, in express words, to be necessary for salvation? I ask, I say, whether this be not more agreeable to the church of CHRIST, than for men to impose their own inventions and interpretations upon others, as if they were of divine authority; and to establish, by ecclesiastical laws, as absolutely

necessary to the profession of christianity, such things as the Holy Scriptures either do not mention, or, at least, do not expressly command? Whsooever requires these things, in order to ecclesiastical communion, which Christ does not require in order to life eternal, may perhaps indeed constitute a society accommodated to his own opinions, and his own advantage. *But how that can be called the Church of* CHRIST, *which is established upon laws that are not his, and which excludes such persons from its communion as he will one day receive into the kingdom of heaven,* I UNDERSTAND NOT."

Listen to a word or two from the immortal poet, John Milton. This champion of religious and political freedom says:

"*For my own part,* I ADHERE TO THE HOLY SCRIPTURES ALONE. I confess, with St. Paul, that 'after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and the Prophets;' to which I add, also, whatever is written in the New Testament."

Again, "But since I enrol myself among the number of those who acknowledge the Word of God alone, as the rule of faith," &c.—Treatise on Chris. Doc., Vol. I, pp. 9, 103.

Now, where is the man to say they did not understand the Scriptures. Locke was one of the most profound thinkers that ever lived. The name of Milton is equivalent to a host. What soul but admires the magnanimity of these great men? These words of truth, gush forth from the breasts of moral giants. I would just as soon undertake to scratch down the Massanutton mountain with my naked hand, or chain down the ocean, as to undertake to handcuff such men with any other creed than the Bible.

But another says, "Does not God approve, providentially, of division into sects by permitting it?" No more than he approves of robbery and murder, by permitting them. Let us not charge upon God the divisions among christians until his word recommends striving "apart" for the faith of the Gospel, and teaches, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell apart in division." Nor until the Saviour prays, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also that shall believe on me through their word, that they all may be divided into numerous sects and parties, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Until there is some such change in Scripture, let none plead the Divine will, for rending and wounding the body of Christ, the Church of the living God.

"But," another says, "are you not making another party, and increasing instead of healing the divisions that already exist?" To this I answer, we have seen that all cannot agree to be Episcopalians, or Methodists, or Presbyterians; but all can and do agree to be Christians.

All cannot agree in the Rule of Discipline of the Methodists, or the Presbyterian Confession of Faith; but all can and do agree in the Scriptures as a rule of faith and practice.

And now, brethren, to the work before us. I hail you all as fellow-laborers in the same cause. Let us, by the grace of God, endeavor to make this one of the most pleasant as well as profitable sessions that the Valley Conference has ever held. Let us express ourselves fully and freely, and with brotherly love, on all subjects claiming our attention while in Conference. And while at home with the various families who will so kindly care for us, I do trust that not a single member of this Conference will lower his dignity by any improper behaviour, or by any idle tale-telling, which is in the least unbecoming to the nice sensibilities which should ever characterize refined ladies and gentlemen, much less the members of a Christian Conference. Let us, however, be cheerful and happy. Let us be kind to all. The fathers and mothers—the hired helps, and all strangers; and whatever you do, don't neglect the children wherever you go. Make, if possible, some impression on the minds of the children in this part of the Valley, for good, in order that the meeting of the Valley Conference at dear old Antioch may in after years be a pleasant reminiscence in their religious experience. I want you to get acquainted with the bright-eyed little girls and boys of my charge. I want you to be cheerful and happy while with them. I see too many christians who think that they must always wear a long face, and go with their heads bowed down, like the bull-rush. I don't like any such religion. I believe a great many people think they have religion, when they only have dyspepsia.

I don't want to hear any member of this Conference whining about persecution. If you are guilty, it will put you down; and you ought to go down. If you are in-

nocent, all the persecution in the world will never ruin you; and you ought to rejoice that you are worthy of being persecuted for the Master's cause.

The most important question claiming our attention will be brought before the Conference by the Committees on Home Missions, Education, Sabbath Schools, and Temperance. I trust all will be ready to report when called on I want nothing done hurriedly, if we can possibly avoid it; but all things done "decently and in order." It is too often the case that the last few hours of our Conferences are so crowded with business that it is neither creditable nor profitable to us. We must, if possible, learn to avoid this.

And, brethren, let us not forget our weakness, our utter inability to accomplish anything great or good without the assistance of Him who has promised to be with those who love and serve him, "even unto the end of the world."

There is a mighty work for the Christians in this Valley. We have recently emerged from a great and desolating war. We are yet among the "stranded fragments and floating timbers" of one of the greatest civil wars on record. And now, while we are buisily employed in rebuilding our homes and altars, let us endeavor to bury forever all sectional or political feelings. I don't want politics to have anything to do with our deliberations. I never want to hear one of my brethren in the ministry preach a political discourse. There are too many who, under the garb of religion, are hypocritical liars, and political demagogues.

In all our deliberations let us prayerfully approach our Heavenly Father, and ask his guidance and direction. Let us be spiritually minded, cheerful, loving followers of the blessed Jesus. Then if we should never meet in another Conference on earth, we will meet in the great Conference above.

Brethren, in conclusion let me say: Oh! let us be united in our work. The waves of the coming conflict which is to convulse Christendom to her centre are beginning to be felt. "All the old signs fail." "God answers no more by Urim and Thummim, nor by dream, nor by prophet" Thunders begin to mutter in the distance. The winds are moaning across the surging bosom of the deep. Everything seems to betide the rising of that storm of divine indignation which shall sweep away the vain refuges of lies. "When the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of his arm," with the indignation of his anger, and "with the flame of a devouring fire;" with "scattering and tempest" and hail-stones. In that day, what shall save us? For judgment will begin at the house of God. Put your trust in Him "whose eyes are as a flame of fire, on whose head are many crowns, who is clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, whose name is called THE WORD OF GOD!" And if we meet, after taking the parting hand from this Conference, on earth no more, we shall meet in heaven, where the rainbow fades not—where light will ever repose in golden glory upon the bowers of Paradise, and where the flowers of Eden will bloom on forever, and our loved and lost ones shall meet us upon the glory gilded banks of the "beautiful river" as it flows warbling by the throne of God. "Even so, Lord Jesus! Come quickly! Amen."

MINUTES

—OF—

The Deep River Christian Conference,

SHILOH, NORTH CAROLINA, *September* 28, 1871.

The Deep River Conference met at this place to-day, in its seventh annual session.

Elder A. S. Nelson called the Conference to order.

Singing by the congregation, and prayer by Elder A. S. Nelson.

The standing Secretary called the roll, and the following ministers and delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS—Jas. Albright, A. S. Nelson, T. G. Craven, J. S. Lawrence, W. R. Brown, W. W. Lawrence and M. L. Hurley.

LICENTIATES—Wm. Dicken, H. A. Albright, D. B. McLeod, S. L. Craven and J. A. Scott.

DELEGATES—O. Vestal, F. Parks, M. W. Coward, J. M. Stinson, A. J. Williams, Wm. Cox, E. A. Moffitt, Abel Cox, J. E. Albright, F. G. Wright, B. S. Scott, S. H. Way, James Brady, Wm. Brown, Sr., Lewis Brady, A. W. Leonard, Jas. Fox, Wyatt Brady, Wm. Brewer. Jos. Craven, E. C. Martin, Geo. Cochran and Reuben Freeman.

The President announced that the first business in order would be the election of officers; whereupon the following persons were unanimously elected:

A. S. Nelson, President; O. Vestal, Vice-President; H. A. Albright, Assistant Secretary.

Elder Alfred Apple was invited to a seat in Conference, as a fraternal messenger from the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference, who responded in a few appropriate remarks.

Elder J. S. Lawrence moved that a committee of three be appointed to examine the letters from the churches. After some discussion by O. Vestal J. A. Scott and Elder A. Apple, the motion was lost.

On motion, Elder A. Apple was requested to preach a sermon in memory of Elder John R. Holt, on Sabbath, at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion, the Annual Address will be delivered to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder J. S. Lawrence.

FRIDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Conference met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder W. R. Brown.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion, Elder W. S. Long, of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, was invited to a seat in this body. After appropriate remarks, Bro. Long advanced and took his seat.

The President proceeded to appoint the usual committees, as follows:

On Ordination—W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, W. M. Craven.

On Memoirs—H. A. Albright, E. C. Martin, M. W. Coward.

On Ministerial Supplies—J. M. Stinson, F. Parks, James Brady, D. Cochran, R. Freeman, F. G. Wright, M. A. Monroe.

On Sabbath Schools—J. A. Scott, A. J. Williams, A. W. Leonard, J. E. Albright, F. Parks.

On Finance—Wm. Brown, Sr., E. A. Moffitt, Jas Brady.

On Temperance—O. Vestal, T. G. Craven, S. H. Way.

On Statistics—W. W. Lawrence, D. B. McLeod, Wm. Cox.

On Finance—Wm. Brown, Sr., W. H. Hicks, E. C. Martin.

Elder W. R. Brown read a letter to Conference from Elder J. B. Ausley, stating that he had not, owing to ill health, been able to preach at the places assigned him by Conference.

The letters from the churches were called for and read, and referred to the Committees on Statistics and Finance.

A petition was read from the church at New Providence, asking admission into the Conference.

On motion, New Providence church was received by a unanimous vote. Bro. M. A. Monroe, a delegate from that church, came forward and took his seat as a member of Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

[The Annual Address was delivered by Elder W. R. Brown, and listened to with great interest.]

1 o'clock P. M.

Conference convened. The President in the chair.

The Committee on Temperance made the following report:

REPORT.

We, the committee on the subject of Temperance, are fully aware of the delicate position we occupy. We know that the minds of all men are not agreed upon this subject. The prejudice of education, coupled with individual interest, has prevented some giving their support to the great Temperance reform, while others have seen the light and are rejoicing in it.

Having examined the subject thoroughly, we are fully convinced that the manufacture, sale, and use of ardent spirits as a beverage' is one of the greatest evils with which our country is cursed. We regard it as one of the greatest hindrances to the success of the Gospel, and the greatest of all injuries to the Church of Christ. In view of which we offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we as a body of Christians, taking Christ as our head and the Bible as our guide, disapprove the manufacture, sale and use of ardent spirits as a beverage, and most earnestly entreat our brethren everywhere to discountenance the same.

Resolved, further, that if any of our members wilfully violate the above resolution, it shall be the duty of the church to labor to reclaim them, and if it cannot be done, cut them off from the fellowship of the church.

Resolved, further, that if any of the churches fail to comply with the above resolutions, they shall be held accountable to the Conference for the same.

Respectfully submitted.

O. VESTAL, *Chm'n.*

The report was received, and after considerable discussion by Elders A. S. Nelson, W. W. Lawrence, T. G. Craven, Joseph Albright, Wm. M. Craven, W. S. Long, W. R. Brown, A. Apple, and Bros. O. Vestal, H. A. Albright, A. W. Leonard and S. H. Way, was adopted.

The subject of changing the time of holding Conference was taken up, and, on motion, laid over till to-morrow morning.

On motion, the President appointed a committee of five to devise some means for raising a fund to be appropriated to the procuring of suitable monuments for the graves of Elders J. R. Holt, Lewis Craven and Josiah McCulloch.

The President appointed the committee as follows: W. R. Brown, T. G. Craven, J. A. Scott, Wm. Brown, Sr., and M. W. Coward.

It was, on motion, decided to have the minutes of Conference published in the Christian Annual.

On motion, the list of the churches was called, to ascertain the number of minutes wanted, which resulted in the raising of $12.50.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder W. S. Long.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President. Prayer by Elder A. Apple.

The roll was called, and Conference proceeded to business.

On motion, it was decided that Elder A. S. Nelson shall deliver the next Annual Address.

A letter from Bro. Shields, a delegate from Salem church, was read and referred to the Committee on Ministerial Supplies.

Conference decided to hold its next session at Union Grove, Randolph county, N. C., on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1872.

The Committee on Finance handed in their report, showing no funds on hand.

Conference proceeded to appoint fraternal messengers to attend the next session of the North Corolina and Virginia Conference, viz: J. S. Lawrence, W. M. Craven and M. L. Hurly.

On motion, the Conference Committee was elected by ballot, which resulted as follows: Revs. A. S. Nelson, W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, Bros. Wm. Brown, Sr., and Isaac Lawrence.

The Committee on Statistics made their report. (See p. 57.)

Conference then adjourned to meet at 1 o'clock P. M.

1 O'CLOCK P. M.

Conference re-assembled. The President in the chair.

The committee on the standing of the ministry submitted the following report, which was received, and after some discussion, unanimously adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Ministerial Character ask leave to report.

Whereas, we believe it to be the duty of brethren in the ministry to counsel, advise, and assist each other in their labors to advance the cause of God; and

Whereas, we, the lay members of the church, consider it a delicate task to investigate charges against the ministry: Therefore—

Resolved, That the committee heretofore known as the Committee on Ministerial Character, be hereafter dispensed with.

Resolved, That we recommend the ministers of this Conference, whenever a report detrimental to the character and standing of a minister is known, that they seek at once to remove the evil themselves by counseling with the accused; and if they fail to adjust the difficulty, then call the attention of Conference thereto.

Respectfully submitted.

O. VESTAL, *Chm'n*

Jos. Craven, delegate from Brown's Chapel, arrived and took his seat. Also, M. L. Williams, from Pleasant Ridge, appeared and took his seat.

Bro. D. B. McLeod offered the following resolution, which was received and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the officers of this session for the faithful discharge of their duties. And Conference would also return thanks to the brethren for the very kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained this body.

Elder T. G. Craven introduced a resolution looking to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures among the destitute, which, on motion of O. Vestal, was laid on the table.

The Committee on Ministerial Supplies made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Ministerial Supplies, beg leave to make the following report:

For itinerant labor—W. R. Brown.

For pastoral labor—Park's Cross Roads, J. S. Lawrence; Pleasant Ridge, J. S. Lawrence, T. G. Craven; Shiloh, J. S. Lawrence, T. G. Craven; Union Grove, W. W. Lawrence, S. L. Craven; Pleasant Grove, W. M. Craven, Wm. Craven; Acorn Ridge, A. S. Nelson; Brown's Chapel, A. S. Nelson; Shady Grove, M. L. Hurley, J. A. Scott; New Hope, T. G. Craven, D. B. McLeod; Christian Union, W. W. Lawrence, S. L. Craven; Cool Spring, M. L. Hurley, J. A. Scott; Oldham's Grove, J. B. Ausley, W. Dicks; Salem, W. M. Craven, W. Brady; New Providence, A. S. Nelson, D. B. McLeod.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. STINSON, *Chm'n.*

The Conference Committee made the following report:

REPORT.

The Conference Committee met soon after last Conference, and transacted some important business. The necessary steps were taken for Elder J. R. Holt to travel at large in and beyond the bounds of the Conference; but owing to ill health he was unable to enter upon his labors.

J. A. Scott was elected Standing Secretary.

Bro. M. L. Hurley was ordained an Elder.

Respectfully submitted.

W. R. BROWN, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report that after due enquiry on the subject they find that there has been a number of schools in successful operation during the year in the bounds of this Conference; but that interest which this cause demands has not been manifested in it, owing to a partial neglect on the part of the brethren to present this matter in its proper light to the people. Your committee consider this subject one of vital importance to the church. It is a means of inculcating and enforcing Gospel truths, second only to preaching the word. It is a means of imparting intellectual culture among all classes, adapted particularly to the wants of the poor, the neglected, and the orphan. It is a means of enforcing precepts of morality.

The main province, however, of Sabbath School instruction is to teach our children the holy commands of God, our Saviour—to impress their young minds with the truths which lead them to the blessed Jesus—therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend the ministers and members of our churches to organize Sabbath Schools at all our churches, and other suitable points in this Conference, and give them their earnest co-operation.

2. *Resolved*, That we recommend our schools to use "Publications of the American Sunday School Union." For the use of the children we recommend the "Sunday School Herald," published at Dayton, Ohio, and for the teachers the "Christian Sun," published at Suffolk, Va.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. SCOTT, *Chm'n.*

Elder W. S. Long made some thrilling remarks on the report, pending the adoption of which Conference adjourned to meet at 6½ o'clock P. M.

6½ o'clock P. M.

Conference convened. The President in the chair.

The report on Sabbath Schools was taken up and discussed at some length by Elders W. R. Brown and T. G. Craven, and unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Memoirs made the following report, which was received, and after remarks from several of the brethren, unanimously adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Memoirs beg leave to report that the only business before us is the case of our much beloved and lamented brother, Elder John R. Holt, who departed this life March 22d, 1871.

Brother Holt entered the christian life while young. He nobly bore the christian cross and banner till he was chosen by the great Head of the Church of Christ to go forth and proclaim to a dying world the unsearchable and incomparable riches of the Gospel of the Son of God.

Deeply impressed with a sense of this imperative duty, and the love of souls, Elder Holt, in his 28th year, entered upon the great mission of warning sinners to repentance—to flee the wrath to come, and accept the glorious plan of salvation purchased and finished on the tree of the cross by the impacable and efficacious blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He labored as a licentiate for some time, to good advantage and success in the cause. But that he might enter more fully and successfully into the ministerial work, he received ordination. His conduct in this prominent and important position was such as became a follower of the meek and lowly Lamb, and of the pious, faithful, consistent, and exemplary christian minister.

His industry was untiring—his labor unceasing. Adverse circumstances did not deter him—prosperity did not make him vain. Few have been more faithful to obey the divine injunctions: "Go preach my gospel," "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

As an educator Bro. Holt had but few equals. To this fact many friends and brethren are ready to testify. Many in the bounds of this Conference will ever remember and revere him as their instructor, and for the many good and wholesome lessons taught, and impressions made while associated with him in the school-room.

Many, very many in the North Carolina Conference and throughout his wide-spread acquaintance, will rise up and call his name blessed.

He was easy, affable and persuasive in the school-room, and in his course of life. None knew him but to love him. He was a good and affectionate husband; a kind and indulgent father and protector; a pleasant and obliging neighbor; a good and useful citizen, always looking to the good and welfare of his fellow-man; a zealous, devout, and efficient minister of the gospel. Many, very many precious souls have been turned from the error of their way—have been regenerated and born again through the instrumentality of his preaching and blessed example. Truly, many stars shall be added to his crown.

The ways and dealings of God are inscrutable and past finding out. The Lord doeth all things well.

In the midst of his usefulness and unceasing exertions for the good of the cause which he had espoused, he was seized by the ruthless hand of disease. He lingered some time under its fatal and unrelenting grasp, and met every stage of the attack with christian fortitude and resignation, ever being resigned to the will of God, only regretting that he was disabled by his disease to go forth and proclaim the good news of salvation to perishing sinners.

At length the hour that tries men's souls approached—the oale messenger Death came! But he was ready—his lamp was trimmed and burning brightly. He met death like a bold soldier of the cross. He had kept the faith; he had fought the good fight; henceforth a crown of life was laid up for him that fadeth not away. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; they rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

For the further expression of our sentiments we would submit the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God, in his merciful Providence, to remove from our midst our beloved brother, Elder John R. Holt; therefore—

1. *Resolved*, That though we mourn deeply the loss of our dear brother, yet we are satisfied that our loss, though to us irreparable, has been to him eternal gain.

2. *Resolved*, That the Church has lost a faithful minister, his family a kind protector, and the community an upright and useful citizen.

3. *Resolved*, That at a suitable time, this Conference will appoint some minister to deliver a funeral sermon in memory of our departed brother.

4. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and also to the "Christian Sun," for publication.

Respectfully submitted.

H. A. ALBRIGHT, *Chm'n.*

On motion, the President appointed committees to report at the next session of this body, viz:

On Temperance—T. G. Craven, S. H. Way, D. B. McLeod.

On Sabbath Schools—J. A. Scott, A. J. Williams, A. W. Leonard, J. E. Albright, F. Parks.

On Education—W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, W. M. Craven.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at Union Grove, on Friday before the 1st Sunday in October, 1872.

Prayer by Elder T. G. Craven.

A. S. NELSON, *Pres't.*

J. A. SCOTT, *Secretary.*
H. A. ALBRIGHT, *Ass't Sec'y.*

[REMARKS.—The ministers have been, for the most part, actively engaged during the past year, and good success has attended their labors. The Conference was large and well attended, and was most harmonious—the brethren all seemed to be of one mind and one spirit.—SECRETARY.]

Statistical Table.

CHURCHES.	Received.	Removed.	Died.	Expelled.	No. Communicants
Parks' Cross Roads	1		1	1	63
Shiloh			1	1	75
Pleasant Ridge	18				95
Pleasant Grove	18	1	3	3	171
Shady Grove	8			2	49
Oldham's Grove					28
Union Grove	9				64
New Providence					28
Acorn Ridge					11
Brown's Chapel	5				21
Christian Union					46
Salem					11
New Hope					12
Cool Springs	2				14
Total	61	1	5	7	688

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Georgia and Alabama Christian Conference.

PLEASANT GROVE, CHAMBERS COUNTY, ALA., }
September 30th, 1871. }

The Georgia and Alabama Christian Conference convened here to-day.

Rev. Jubilee Smith preached the introductory sermon to a large and appreciative audience, from Jer. xvii., 7, 8, after which Conference adjourned till 2 o'clock P. M.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Conference re-assembled and was called to order by Rev. Jubilee Smith, President of last session.

Rev. Jubilee Smith was unanimously re-elected President and Bro. Wm. J. Manning was chosen Secretary.

Letters from the different churches were called for, and the following responded:

Pleasant Grove, New Hope, Liberty, and Providence Chapel. Christian Union was not represented by delegate or letter, but the pastor, Rev. Jubilee Smith, reported its condition as being prosperous.

The following ministers and lay delegates were reported present:

ELDERS—Jubilee Smith, Jas. D. Elder, and C. W. Gregg.

LICENTIATES—M. J. Sorrell and W. J. Manning.

LAY-DELEGATES—*Pleasant Grove:* Griffin Willingham, Jas. Abacrombia. *New Hope:* T. H. Elder, M. D. Chewning. Wm. Collier, J. N. Gregg and M. Knight, alternates from Liberty; W. R. Glenn and J. M. Wharton alternates from Providence Chapel.

The following committees were then appointed:

On Standing of the Ministry—W. R. Glenn, M. D. Chewning, James Abacrombia.

On Standing of the Churches—T. H. Elder, Wm. Collier, Griffin Willingham.

On Sabbath Schools—W. J. Manning, H. Knight, C. W. Gregg.

On Temperance—C. W. Gregg, Griffin Willingham, W. R. Glenn.

On Periodicals—W. J. Manning, J. D. Elder, C. W. Gregg.

On Examination of Candidates—Jubilee Smith, Jas. D. Elder, C. W. Gregg.

On Education—M. J. Sorrell, W. J. Manning, J. D. Elder.

The Conference then adjourned to 8 o'clock Monday, Oct. 2d.

Religious services Sunday, Oct. 1st, at 10 o'clock A. M by Rev. M. J. Sorrell, and at 11 o'clock A. M. Rev. Jubilee Smith delivered the annual address; at 3 o'clock P. M. Rev. Jas. D. Elder preached an interesting sermon.

MONDAY, October 2, 1871.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President. Prayer by Rev. Jubilee Smith.

The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

The Committee on the Standing of the Ministry made the following

REPORT:

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we have, through the delegates, investigated the standing of the ministers of this Conference, and we find them all in good standing. Our late ministers appear to be in full discharge of their duties.

M. D. CHEWNING, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on the State of the Church made the following

REPORT:

We, your committee, beg leave to report, that we find all the churches in good condition. Some of them have been blessed with revivals and additions, while but three deaths have occurred among the membership during the past year.

T. H. ELDER, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported as follows:

REPORT.

We, the Committee on Sabbath Schools earnestly recommend that each church connected with this body persevere until a Sabbath School has been permanently established. In this way great good may be accomplished in the Church. The Sabbath School work is the great work of the Church of Christ at present.

W. J. MANNING, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on Temperance made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report, that we think it is apparent to all that intemperance is a great evil in our community; and we would therefore recommend that our brethren use their best endeavors to devise plans whereby this evil may be checked in our midst.

C. W. GREGG, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on Periodicals presented the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Periodicals, beg leave to report, that we believe our denominational paper, the CHRISTIAN SUN, published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, should be read by every family in our Conference. Its editor should have the sympathy and hearty co-operation of every member of our Church, and we would therefore recommend every male member, at least, to subscribe for the paper at once. We would further recommend that every member of the Conference supply themselves with Hymn Books and Sunday School Books published for the benefit of the Christian Church, South.

W. J. MANNING, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on Education made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to suggest—

1st. That all parents attend carefully to the education of their children, especially to impart that kind of instruction which leads to morality and religion.

2d. That all our membership, without distinction as to age or sex, read and study the Bible as an efficient means of moral and intellectual progress; that they at all times seek to acquire knowledge, in order that their own enjoyment and usefulness may be increased.

3d. That the ministers among us strive diligently for a thorough and correct scholarship.

M. J. SORRELL, *Chm'n.*

The subject of the itinerancy was brought before the body, and interesting remarks were made by Rev. J. Smith, Bro. M. J. Sorrell, and others.

While Conference felt the necessity of an itinerant laborer, it was unable to appoint any one to fill the important position, and therefore recommended that the Elders, one and all, visit as often as possible the destitute churches within our bounds, and that the churches defray the expenses of said ministers while absent from their regular fields of labor.

The following brethren were appointed to solicit funds for the support of the ministry:

J. W. Elder, for the Valley; T. H. Elder for New Hope; G. B. Knight, for Liberty; G. Willingham, for Pleasant Grove; W. R. Glenn and J. Bridges, for Providence Chapel; Tenderson Smith, for Christian Union; Jewrystone Smith, for Miller's Valley.

Bro. G. M. Hurst was recommended to Conference by Liberty Church for permission to preach as a probationer during the next year. Granted.

The members of Providence Chapel recommended Bros J. M. Wharton and W. R. Seger as proper persons to be licensed as probationers, which was granted.

The members of Pleasant Grove recommended that Bro. M. J. Sorrell be examined with a view to ordination as an Elder. Whereupon Revs. Jubilee Smith, J. D. Elder, and C. W. Gregg were appointed to conduct the examination, which resulted favorably, and Bro. Sorrell was then presented to the Ordaining Presbytery for ordination. He was then solemnly set apart to the office of Elder by the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery and prayer.

Bro. J. L. Neece, expelled since our last Conference, was restored to fellowship in the church, having given satisfaction to the brethren.

On motion, Bro. Jubilee Smith was requested to furnish a circular letter to accompany the minutes.

On motion, it was ordered that the proceedings of this body be published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL.

Conference then adjourned to meet with the church at Providence Chapel, Georgia, on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1872.

Religious exercises by Elder J. Smith.

JUBILEE SMITH, *Pres't.*

W. J. MANNING, *Sec'y.*

[REMARKS.—The session of the Conference was one of the most harmonious and profitable that it has been our privilege to attend. The most ample provision was made for the accommodation of the members and visitors, by the friends in the vicinity of Pleasant Grove, without regard to denomination. The business was well matured, the preaching spiritual and earnest, and the intercourse of the brethren pleasant. Our thanks are tendered to the brethren and friends in this vicinity for the hospitality shown us while laboring for the cause of our Lord and Master.—SECRETARY.]

Circular Letter,

BY REV. JUBILEE SMITH.

DEAR BRETHREN: We have great reason to rejoice in being permitted to meet again in a Conference capacity, to devise ways and means for future operations in advancing our great Redeemer's kingdom.

Since we last met, we have been wonderfully blessed in our efforts to do good. Many have been added to the church, and we believe many more will come before the close of the present year. Those who have joined with us are such as will labor for the good of the church, and do battle for the kingdom of God in the world.

It is true, many have labored to crush our efforts to advance, and have continued to do so from the time we preached our first sermons as Christian ministers. We have thus far triumphed. Truth is mighty and will prevail. We feel thankful that there are those entering the vineyard who will cry aloud and spare not, as many of us have done and are still doing—declaring glad tidings and good news to a sinful people. I can say, in truth, that I have never witnessed more earnest efforts in our churches for the advancement of our cause, than at present. We feel that the Lord is on our side, and has sustained our efforts. Our enemies are left to bewail their failure. Let us be faithful to our duty in every department of our holy calling, and, like Paul, labor night and day for the cause of Christ and his kingdom. You are all aware of the trouble through which we have passed as a church in years gone by. But we were not alone even then, for in our youth and while just entering upon the ministry, our fathers were in the afternoon of their pilgrimage, battling against the doctrines of Alexander Campbell, as advocated by Charles Shehane, who, after destroying the Christian Church in Georgia, turned Universalist.

After this ever memorable event, our fathers, in their scattered condition, could not rally sufficiently to organize a conference until we made our appearance upon the stage of life. Then it was that sectarianism brought all her means to bear against us. Then the days were dark, and we earnestly prayed for more true ministers of Christ to sustain the great work begun by our fathers, who now sleep in their graves. This is a sad subject, and vividly brings to mind the loved and well-remembered voices that used to ring out in warnings to us of the future condemnation of the wicked, and paint in glowing colors the reward of the righteous, and whose counsel has never ceased to cheer us in our labors. Brethren, in imagination we still hear the voices of Jacob Calahan, George L. Smith and W. M. J. Elder ringing in our ears. May the spirit that animated them prompt us to press onward in our duty and encourge us to renewed exertions in our labor for the cause of the Father.

Brethren, our cause is a good one, and seeks not to trámel or fetter any of God's people; but beseeches them one and all to love Him and keep His commandments, as the whole duty of man. We seek to impose no grievous burdens. We fall out with no man for serving God according to the dictates of his own conscience; but would gladly encourage him in the way of life.

We feel thankful that our long night of struggle is approaching the dawn of day. Our Principles and Government can be seen by all who wish to see them, by addressing Rev. W. B. Wellons, Suffolk, Va. A perusal will convince all that we are not Campbellites, but what we have ever claimed to be—CHRISTIANS.

Now, brethren, let us renew our pledges and labor diligently during the coming Conference year, and, by the blessing of God we shall rejoice together in an abundant harvest of heaven-born souls, converted to God through the preaching of his Word.

In conclusion, let me urge upon our people the importance of sustaining the ministry, as that is one of the great levers to success. Every man has expenses which must be met, and without money nothing can be accomplished. Help us all you can, for we are needy. If you want us to travel you must sustain us both with your prayers and your means. Whether you be Christians or not, we ask your aid. We are laboring for your good and for the benefit of your children. Finally, brethren, we bid you farewell, praying the blessing of our Lord and Saviour upon you and yours. The grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all—Amen.

AMERICUS, GA.

NORTH CAROLINA COLORED CONFERENCE.

The session of this Conference was held at Burchett's Chapel, Warren county, N. C., on the 9th, 10th and 11th of November, 1871. Seven Elders were present and lay delegates representing ten churches. Rev. Wm. M. Hayes was chosen President, and John W. Burwell Secretary.

There are connected with the Conference eighteen ministers and twenty-one churches.

The annual sermon was preached by Rev. Wm. M. Hayes, from Luke xii., 42.

Seven new churches were received into the Conferenee.

Robert McKinney was ordained an Elder and Jordan Harris received license to preach.

Reports on Sabbath Schools, Temperance, and Missions, were presented, discussed and adopted.

The propriety of establishing a High School at Franklinton was discussed at length, and Norfleet White, S. L. Long and Wm. M. Hayes appointed a committee to purchase a lot and take steps, at once, for the establishment of such a school. Two hundred and fifty-four dollars was raised at once for the school.

The next session of the Conference will be held at Graham, N. C.

The appointment of the preachers to their various fields of labor was announced, and the Conference then adjourned.

Rev. J. W. Wellons, the Superintendent appointed by his Conference, was present, and gave advice and assistance in the business of the Conference.

Colored Christians in Virginia.

Several colored churches have been organized in the bounds of the Eastern Virginia Conference. Rev. Justin Copeland, a colored minister, has charge of the churches at Mount Ararat and Zion, in Nansemond county, and Antioch, in Isle of Wight county. Lewis Darden and Talitha Briggs have been licensed to preach for their color, and Henry Hamlin, an intelligent colored man in Southampton county, is a candidate for licensure.

Rev. W. B. Wellons and Rev. R. H. Holland preside over and counsel with the colored ministers and churches, under appointment from the Conference.

Rev. M. B. Barrett preaches for a congregation of colored people in Southampton county, and Rev. S. S. Barrett will probably organize several colored churches in the vicinity of Norfolk, soon.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Sunday School Convention.

FIRST DAY.

The "Sunday School Convention of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference" met, according to appointment, at Berea, Nansemond county, Va., on Tuesday, May 23d, and was called to order by the President.

The following officers were present: Rev. W. B. Wellons, President; Rev. R. H. Holland, Vice-President; Rev. C. A. Apple, Secretary; Thomas J. Kilby, Esq., Treasurer.

The Convention was opened by singing "Universal Praise," which was done with great beauty and feeling by the choir and congregation. Prayer was then offered by Rev. J. N. Manning, after which the choir sang "Home in the Skies."

The reports were then called for, and the names of delegates and members enrolled. The following were present:

MINISTERS—W. B. Wellons, R. H. Holland, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley.

SUPERINTENDENTS AND DELEGATES.—*Suffolk*—Thos. J. Kilby, (Supt.) D. B. Dunbar, B. F. Cutchin, Jno. T. Nurney, Thos. H. Hines. *Spring Hill*—J. T. Harris, (Supt.) B. B. Harris. *Bethlehem*—R. Copeland, (Supt.) T. Parker, Wiley Redd, Wm. Eley. *Holy Neck*—J. Oberry, (Supt.) Dr. R. C. Everett, P. H. Lee. *Walnut Grove*—N. B. H. Munford, (Supt.) G. W. Eley, G. T. Bradshaw. *Ferry Point*—J. W. Thomas, Jr. *Antioch*—B. F. Roberts, (Supt.) A. W. Ballard J. C. Thomas, M. L. Watkins, S. A. Eley, M. K. Eley, M. H. Watkins, A. S. Birdsong, S. J. Carr. *Providence*—S. Etheredge, Jr., Curtis Ives. *Berea*—E. Everett, (Supt.) E. E. Lee, Dr. W. T. Jordan, R. B. Ames. *Cypress*—V. S. Kilby, (Supt.) Joseph Booth, James R. Parker, James E. Riddick, Walter H. Eley. *Damascus*—Jos. B. Costen, (Supt.) George J. Costen. *Ducksville*—I. W. Duck, (Supt.) Thos. M. Murray, C. W. Bailey, J. E. T. Joyner, Virgil E. White, Mills Britt, Zachariah Mountford, B. T. Carr. *Union*—No delegate. *Liberty Spring*—A. J. Raby, (Supt.) George W. Turner, Joel H. Brinkley, W. T. Ellener *Johnson's Grove*—No report. *Barrett's*—No report.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the newly organized school at Elm Grove, Nansemoud county, was admitted into the Convention, as a branch of the school at Bethlehem.

The school was accordingly admitted, and delegates enrolled as follows: J. P. Barrett, (Supt.) John T. Kitchen, Wm. Eley, Jr., Charles P. Norfleet.

On motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, the school at Liberty, Norfolk county, was admitted into the Convention. No delegates.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the election of a President and Vice-President for the ensuing twelve months. The result was the re-election of Rev. W. B. Wellons as President, and Rev. R. H. Holland as Vice-President, each of whom, on taking his seat, made appropriate remarks.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, the Convention determined to meet each day at 9 a. m.; adjourn at 1 p. m.; meet again at 2½ p. m., and adjourn at will.

The Convention then took a recess until half-past 2 o'clock p. m. Singing by the choir, "As the birds," &c.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention was called to order at the appointed hour by the President. Singing by the choir.

On motion of Supt. T. J. Kilby, Rev. Reuben Jones, of the Baptist Church, was invited to a seat in the Convention as an honorary member.

On motion, the following were selected to act with the President and Secretary as an Executive Council for the ensuing year: D. B. Dunbar, M. H. Watkins, J. T. Harris.

The Executive Council then made a report, recommending several questions for discussion, and advising a discontinuance, at least for the present year, of the usual committees. The report was adopted.

The following questions were then discussed:

1. What are the duties and qualifications of the Sunday School teacher?
2. Teachers' Meetings.
3. Sunday School Missions.

Pending the discussion of the last question, the Convention adjourned until to-morrow. Prayer by Rev. C. A. Apple and singing by the choir.

SECOND DAY.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the President. Rev. W. B. Wellons read the 150th Psalm and the choir sang "Gloria Patri," after which prayer was offered by Rev. R. H. Holland. The choir then sang another hymn, after which the Convention resumed its business.

The subject of Sunday School Missions was again taken up.

Supt. J. P. Barrett offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That we request each school connected with this Convention to select and send out one or more of their best workers, to act as missionaries and establish mission schools "wherever there are wanderers to be reclaimed or ignorant to be instructed," by which means we hope to see our cause extended, and much good accomplished.

After a few remarks from Rev. C. A. Apple, advocating the resolution, it was unanimously adopted.

The Convention then proceeded to consider the question:

"What is the best system of Sunday School instruction now practicable among us?"

On motion of Bro. M. H. Watkins, Rev. Mr. Babb, of the Baptist Church, was admitted to a seat as an honorary member.

After another hymn by the choir, the Convention took up the question: "What is the best system of religious exercises for opening and closing the schools?"

Rev. C. A. Apple, who has lately prepared a Manual of opening and closing exercises, then proceeded practically to illustrate the manner of using it in opening and closing the school, the members of the Convention acting as the pupils and Bro. Apple as the Superintendent.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met at the usual hour, and after singing by the choir, took up the subject of Blackboard Illustrations.

Revs. C. A. Apple and J. T. Whitley each delivered a short lecture, with exemplifications on the board, to the general interest and satisfaction of those present.

The Convention then discussed the question: "Ought the country schools to be discontinued during the winter?"

Earnest speeches in the negative were made by Revs. W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning and J. T. Whitley, and Supt. Copeland.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That we as a Convention, most heartily approve the continuance of the Sunday Schools during the whole year, and that we will not discontinue our schools during the coming winter.

The discussion was then discontinued.

Rev. J. T. Whitley offered the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, we, as Sunday School workers, feel much the want of a suitable Manual of Exercises and Instructions in our schools, and

Whereas, Rev. C. A. Apple has prepared, and the Board of Publication has published a Manual, which we think adapted to meet this want: therefore—

Resolved, That as a Convention we heartily endorse the said Manual, and commend it to all our schools for adoption and use.

Unanimously agreed to.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, a vote of thanks was tendered to the brethren and friends at Berea, and to their excellent pastor, Rev. W. B. Wellons, for kind and hospitable treatment.

It was decided to hold the next session of the Convention at Providence, Norfolk county, the 4th Tuesday in May, 1872.

After singing by the choir and a fervent prayer by the President, the benediction was pronounced, and this most profitable session of the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

W. B. WELLONS, *President*.

C. A. APPLE, *Secretary*.

Statistics.

SCHOOLS.	Officers.	Teachers.	Pupils.	Bible Class.	Average Attendance.	Total.	Library.	S. S. Papers.	Conversions.	Collections.	Disbursements.
Antioch	5	19	134	28	107	180	325	70	20	$17 89	
Berea	5	16	72	18	70	111	300	20	..	26 85	$24 97
Bethlehem	4	14	90	12	58	116	180	25	10	15 00	16 00
Cypress	5	16	143	13	81	156	223	50	..	12 64	12 00
Damascus	6	11	40	19	40	70	125	..	..	3 00	
Ducksville	6	17	137	25	83	179	150	25	12	9 00	9 00
Elm Grove	4	9	62	..	55	74		..	..		
Ferry Point	5	10	46	..	30	56	440	..	..	30 00	26 50
Holy Neck	6	22	150	50	100	172	150	..	..	7 74	7 34
Liberty Spring	5	8	81	40	50	89	120	32	..	6 00	6 00
Providence	5	6	35	11	30	44	48	..	..	3 00	
Spring Hill	6	9	50	..	53	59	115	..	2	14 18	12 01
Suffolk	6	19	79	17	65	115	75	40	25	26 66	25 62
Walnut Grove	5	9	58	..	40	67	25	..	1	1 81	
Union	5	7	45	9	25	61	30	..	..		
Hebron	..	..		..		30		..	..		
Liberty	..	..		..		32		..	..		

Ministerial Directory.

EASTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

Ministers.	*P. O. Address*
S. S. Barrett	Ferry Point, Va.
Rob't Rawls	Ivor, Va.
W. B. Wellons	Suffolk, Va.
M. B. Barrett	Ivor, Va.
R. H. Holland	Carrsville, Va.
J. N. Manning	Norfolk, Va.
Thomas W. Joyner	Berlin, Va.
C. A. Apple	Franklin Depot, Va.
R. H. Costen	Norfolk, Va.
Jesse T. Whitley	Richmond, Va.
Hugh S. Dunn	Brooklyn, N. Y.
P. S. P. Corbin	Houma, La.

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

Thomas J. Fowler	Mebaneville, N. C.
Alfred Iseley	Company Shops, "
Solomon Apple	Milton, "
Alfred Apple	Red Bank, Va.
H. B. Hayes	Raleigh, N. C.
A. G. Anderson	Anderson's Store, "
D. T. Deanes	Aspen Grove, "
Chastien Allen	Oxford, "
J. W. Wellons	Franklinton, "
J. N. Farrell	Lockville, "
Wm. H. Franks	Raleigh, "
E. W. Beale	McCray's Store, "
Wm. S. Long	Graham, "
C. A. Boon	Pittsborough, "
Wm. T. Walker	Monticello, "
P. W. Allen	Salem Chapel, "
John W. Hatch	Pittsborough, "
R. C. Tuck	Pacific, "
R. G. Tinnen	Cedar Grove, "
W. G. Clements	Morrisville, "
J. K. Gibson	Company Shops, "
Thomas Truitt	" " "

DEEP RIVER VALLEY CONFERENCE.

Wm. R. Brown	Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Joseph Albright	" " "
John S. Lawrence	" " "
W. W. Lawrence	" " "
T. G. Craven	" " "
Wm. M. Craven	" " "
John A. Scott	" " "
M. L. Hurley	Graham, "
A. S. Nelson	Carter's Mills, "
Anderson Craven	Reed Creek, "
Daniel McLeod	Auman's Hill, "
Wm. Brady	" " "
J. B. Ausley	Jonesborough. "

VALLEY VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

Ministers.	*P. O. Address.*
D. A. Long	Dayton, Va.
G. W. Woods	New Market, Va.
James A. Harding	Rushville, Va.
C. J. Ralston	Harrisonburg, Va.
Jacob M. Calhoun	Lacy Spring, Va.

GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

Jubilee Smith	Preston, Ga.
John D. Elder	Milltown, Ala.
C. W. Gregg	" "
W. J. Manning	" "
W. J. Sorrell	West Point, Ga.
J. M. Wharton	Preston, Ga.
W. R. Seger	" "

Position on Christian Union.

The following preamble and resolutions adopted by the General Convention of the Christian Church at its last session, held in May, 1870, at Suffolk, Va., gives the position occupied by the CHRISTIANS on the question of Christion union:

Whereas, The members of the General Convention of the Christian Church are profoundly impressed with the belief that harmony in the Church of Christ is essentially necessary to the true interests of our holy religion: Therefore—

1. *Resolved*, That we appeal to all true christians of every denomination, to aid us in the great work of promoting that "unity of spirit in the bond of peace" which should prevail among the members of the body of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the Head.

2. *Resolved*, That while we freely concede the inalienable right of every man to exercise private judgment and liberty of conscience in matters of religion, yet we recognize the necessity which demands that certain fundamental doctrines should be believed and acknowledged by every one seeking admission into the visible church.

3. *Resolved*, That, in our opinion, there is a sufficient community of feeling and belief among evangelical denominations to form a basis of union, without binding the consciences of men in those matters which are but of secondary importance and are not essential to the constitution of the church instituted by our Lord and established through the instrumentality of his apostles and ministers.

4. *Resolved*, That we call upon every true friend of our holy faith, everywhere, to come out openly in favor of Evangelical Christian Union—the only safeguard of Protestant Christianity, and the only means of promoting that spiritual unanimity and perfect peace which are the crowning glory of the Gospel.

New Publications this Year.

Manual and Catechism for Sunday Schools, by Rev. C. A. Apple.
Tract No. 1, on Principles of the Christian Church, by Rev. J. N. Manning.
Minutes of the Conferences of 1870, by Rev. W. B. Wellons.

PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIANS.

They extend the hand of christian fellowship and brotherly love to all who have been born of the Spirit, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and work righteousness, welcoming all such to the Lord's table when spread by them. While immersion is the mode of baptism mostly practiced by them, yet sprinkling and pouring is recognized, and, to some extent, practiced by them. Their practice is to receive to their fellowship and in church membership, all who give evidence of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and of a regenerated state, and then leave all to satisfy their own conscience in reference to the mode of baptism. Ministers and lay members are alike free to exercise their own liberty of conscience on this and all other subjects not considered fundamental or essential to regeneration and the salvation of the soul. Their pulpits are open to the ministers of all Evangelical denominations, and the ministers of the Christian Church are always ready to join with other ministers in christian labors and in doing good.

They have taken the world for their field of labor, and are seeking to build up their cause, not upon the ruins of other organizations, but to bring together in cooperation the liberal and good from every class, and to make converts from the world.

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Benevolent Organizations.

As will be seen by reference to the Minutes of the several Conferences, the CHRISTIANS are earnest workers in Sabbath School, Temperance, and Missionary labor, and in every work of benevolence they feel an interest and act a part.

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EDUCATION.

The "SUFFOLK COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE" has been established at Suffolk, Va., under the control and patronage of the CHRISTIANS. Its first session opened January 8th, 1872.

JOSEPH KING, A. B.,
JOHN H. WRIGHT, A. M., } *Associate Principals.*

Mrs. SARAH B. ELEY, in charge of the Female Department.

"GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL," located at Graham, N. C., Rev. William S. Long, Principal, has been adopted as the denominational school of the North Carolina and Virginia and the Deep River Connferences. The old Graham College building has been purchased for its use, and the school is in successful operation.

One young man, preparing for greater usefulness in the ministry, is attending Richmond College.

One is preparing himself for the ministry at Trinity College, North Carolina.

Five or six students for the ministry are with Rev. Wm. S. Long, in Graham High School, and four or five young men have entered the Suffolk Collegiate Institute as students for the ministry.

There are several private schools of high grade mainly patronized by the Christians.

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Places of Meeting of the Conferences for 1872.

Eastern Virginia—Hebron, Isle of Wight county, October 30th.
North Carolina and Virginia—Shallow Well, Moore county, November 15th.
Deep River Conference—Union Grove, October 4th.
Valley Virginia Conference—Soliloquy, Shenandoah county, October 11th.
Georgia and Alabama Conference—Providence, Stewart county, Ga., October 4th
North Carolina Colored Conference, Graham, November 7th.

General Convention of the Christian Church.

"The Southern Christian Association," organized in 1847, gave way to the "Southern Christian Convention" in 1856, and the "General Convention of the Christian Church" took the place of the latter organization in May, 1866.

The General Convention is composed of an equal number of Elders and Laymen, representing the annual Conferences in the proportion of one delegate to every four hundred members.

The General Convention has the supervision of all the general enterprises of the denomination, in the bounds of the Conferences connected with it.

Its work is accomplished through the agency of Standing Committees, on Publications, Schools and Colleges, and Missions, and special committees on all other subjects requiring mature deliberation and time.

All difficulties arising in the local Conferences may be carried to the General Convention by appeal, and the decision of the Convention is final.

It is made the duty of the President of the General Convention to visit as many of the Annual Conferences connected with the body as he can, and confer, counsel and advise with the brethren in everything connected with the work of the church.

The next regular session of the General Convention will be held at Graham, N. C., commencing the first Friday in May, 1874.

The following are the officers of the General Convention at present:

PRESIDENT,

Rev. W. B. WELLONS, Suffolk, Va.

VICE-PRESIDENT,

Rev. SOLOMON APPLE, Milton, N. C.

SECRETARY,

Rev. C. A. APPLE, Franklin Depot, Va.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,

Rev. WM. S. LONG, Graham, N. C

TREASURER,

ALFRED MORING, Morrisville, N. C.

Rev. C. A. Apple, Franklin Depot, Va , is Chairman of the Standing Committee on Publications; Rev. J. N. Manning, of Norfolk, Chairman of the Committee on Schools and Colleges; Rev. J. W. Wellons, Franklinton, N. C., is Chairman of the Committee on Missions, and Col. Alexander Savage, of Norfolk. Va., is the Chairman of the Special Committee on Finance.

The General Convention held its last regular session at Suffolk, Va., in May, 1870. The proceedings of that and previous sessions may be obtained at the office of the "Christian Sun," at Suffolk.

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The Object of this Publication.

This annual publication has been commenced with the view of acquainting the public more fully with the Christian organization—its history, its principles, its government, and its work. In years agone, the organization did not occupy its true position before the great public, and prejudices existed in the minds of many against it, which would never have been indulged if proper information could have been obtained. To place the Christians before the public in a true position is one great object aimed at in this publication.

The Minutes of the Conferences, the opening addresses, and other matter, show the means being used for the permanent continuance of the denomination.

Although to some extent a separate and distinct organization from all others, yet they do not claim to be a sect in the usual acceptation and true definition of that term. The organization claims no name which is not common to all believers in Christ. It has no peculiar doctrines of its own to advocate; accepting as it does the

doctrines generally held by Protestant and Evangelical Christians as theirs. It asks and earnestly seeks the co-operation of all the followers of the Saviour in extending the benefits and comforts of the religion of Jesus to the whole human race.

The organization was formed not to separate the disciples of the Lord and make itself thereby a sect and its members sectarians, but it was formed for the purpose of uniting all the people of God in good works and in the propagation of the great truths of the Gospel.

The peculiar doctrines and tenets which have so long confused and distracted the church, producing division and multiplying sects, cease to be matters for debate and discussion in the CHRISTIAN organization. Holding the great fundamental doctrines and principles of the Gospel in common with the evangelical portion of the Protestant world, and extending to all the right of private judgment in all things not considered essential to salvation, no compromise of faith or opinion is required in order to communion and church fellowship. Denominational distinctions thus cease to exist, so far as christian fellowship and communion is concerned, and love binds the whole brotherhood together.

The purposes and aims of the organization will be consummated only when the world is reformed and the union of all the children of the common Father is effected.

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Deaths in the Ministry.

Rev. John R. Holt, Deep River Conference, March 22d, 1871.
Rev. Anthony Franks, North Carolina Conference, October 12th, 1871.

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Ordinations.

M. L. Hurley, Deep River Conference.
J. T. Whitley, Eastern Virginia Conference.
J. A. Harding, Valley Virginia Conference.
M. J. Sorrell, Georgia and Alabama Conference.

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Licensures.

C. J. Ralston, Valley Virginia Conference.
J. M. Calhoun, " " "
G. M. Hurst, Georgia and Alabama Conference.
J. M. Wharton, " " "
W. R. Seger, " " "
J. L. Neece, " " "

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Dedications.

Catawba Spring, North Carolina Conference, June 4th, 1871.
Cypress Chapel, Eastern Virginia Conference, July 30th, 1871.
Mount Carmal, Eastern Virginia Conference, October 1st, 1871.
Soliloquy, Valley Virginia Conference, October 15th, 1871.

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Students for the Ministry.

Four young men in the Eastern Virginia Conference, six in the North Carolina Conference, two in the Deep River Conference, one in the Georgia and Alabama Conference, and two in the Valley Virginia Conference, have entered the Biblical Class in their respective Conferences, with the view of entering upon the work of the ministry in the Christian Church.

REVIVALS.

The Church was greatly blessed this year with revivals. The CHRISTIANS have always been a revival people.

We give a few of the revivals reported in the *Christian Sun:*

A gracious revival was experienced at Dayton, Rockingham county, Va., commencing on the 27th of July, under the labors of Rev. D. A. Long. A number were converted, and a new church of 16 members was organized.

Rev. W. G. Clements, assisted by Rev. H. B. Hayes and Rev. R. G. Tinnen, held a meeting at Hayes' Chapel, in Wake county, N. C., the first week in August, which resulted in 11 conversions and several additions to the church.

Rev. Jubilee Smith held a good meeting at Red Hill, Stewart county, Ga., on the first week in August. Five members were added to the church, and others professed faith in Christ.

A meeting held at Spring Hill, Sussex county, Va., the first week in August, by Rev. M B. Barrett, assisted by Rev. J. T. Whitley, resulted in the conversion of 25 persons, and 14 united with the church.

Rev. C. A. Apple, assisted by Rev. R. H. Holland, held a meeting at Damascus, Gates county, N. C., the first week in August, at which 16 persons were converted and 10 united with the church.

A good meeting was held at Oak Level, Franklin county, N. C., the first week in August, by Rev. J. W. Wellons, assisted by Rev. J. N. Farrell—34 converts, and a good addition to the church.

Rev. E. W. Beale, aided by Rev. C. A. Boon, held a good meeting at Damascus, Orange county, N. C., the first week in August. Several converted.

Rev. D. A. Long, with Rev. G. W. Woods and Bro. J. M. Calhoun, had a precious season at Soliloquy, Shenandoah county, Va., on the second week in August. Several were converted and a new church organization was commenced.

On the 15th of August, Rev. J. N. Manning organized a Christian Church at Berea, in Norfolk county, Va. Twenty-two persons were received into the fellowship of the church.

Rev. W. G. Clements, aided by Rev. J. B. Ausley, held a meeting at Christian Chapel, Chatham county, N. C., embracing the second Sabbath in August—17 converts, and 7 additions to the church.

At Union, Southampton county, Va., Rev. R. H. Holland, held a meeting embracing the second Sunday in August, which resulted in the conversion of 25 persons. Revs. M. B. Barrett, Thos. W. Joyner, and Bro. J. T. Whitley aided in the work.

Rev. W. T. Walker, aided by Rev. P. W. Allen and others, held a gracious meeting at Salem Chapel, Forsythe county, N. C., the first week in August—many converts.

On the 26th of August, Rev. W. B. Wellons organized a new church at Mt. Carmel, Isle of Wight county, Va., of 26 members. Rev Thos. W, Joyner and Bro. J. T. Whitley were present and participated in the exercises.

A good meeting was held the second week in August, at Union, Halifax county, Va. Rev. A. Apple was assisted by Revs. S. Apple, R. G. Tinnen and R. C. Tuck—twenty-two converted.

A revival was experienced at O'Kelly's, Chatham county, N. C., embracing the third Sunday in August, The meeting was conducted by Rev. A. Apple, assisted by Prof. York, and others.

At Liberty, Guilford county, N. C., on the first week in August, Rev. D. T. Deanes, assisted by Rev. W. T. Walker, held a good meeting—four converts and three united with the church.

Rev. J. W. Wellons, assisted by Rev. S. Apple, held a good meeting at Mt. Auburn, Warren county, N. C., embracing the third Sunday in August—seven converts.

At Pleasant Grove, Randolph county, N. C., and at Union Grove, in the same county, gracious revivals were experienced early in August. Revs. W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, J. A. Scott, and others, participated in the work.

Rev. J. N. Manning held a gracious meeting at Providence, Norfolk county, Va., early in August. Several converted, several baptized, and the church greatly revived.

Rev. W. R. Brown held a meeting resulting in a number of conversions, at Pleasant Ridge, Randolph county, N. C., the last of August.

A good meeting was held at Good Hope, Granville county, N. C., the last of August, by Rev. J. W. Wellons, assisted by Rev. S. Apple—eight converts

Rev. M. B. Barrett, assisted part of the time by Rev. R. H. Holland, held a good meeting at Barrett's, in Southampton county, Va., the last of August—twenty-one converts, and a large addition to the church.

Fourteen persons were converted at Zion, Moore county, N. C., the middle of August, at a meeting held by Rev. C. A. Boon.

The most powerful revival of the season was experienced at Holy Neck, Nansemond county, Va., commencing the first Sunday in September. The meeting continued eight days, and 108 souls were converted. Sixty-nine united with the church during the meeting and a number afterwards. Rev. R H Holland conducted the meeting, and was assisted by Rev. M. B. Barrett, Bro. J. T. Whitley and others. On the third Sunday morning in September, Bro Holland baptised 52 of the converts by immersion. This meeting was one of such interest as never to be forgotten in the neighborhood of Holy Neck.

Twenty-four persons were converted at Union, Alamance county, N. C., early in September, and fourteen joined the church Rev. A. Iseley conducted the meeting, assisted by Revs. J. W. Wellons, E. W. Beale, A. G Anderson and W. S. Long.

Rev. J. D. Elder, held a gracious meeting at New Hope, Chambers county, Ala. early in September—sixteen converted and joined the church.

At Catawba Spring, Wake county, N C, a gracious meeting was held the first week in September. Revs. J. N. Farrell, H. B. Hayes, T. J. Fowler, A Franks, and W. H. Franks were all present a part of the time—seventeen converted, and thirteen united with the church.

Rev. C. A. Apple had a meeting of interest at Bethlehem, Nansemond county, in September. Four or five persons were converted. Rev W. B. Wellons and Bro. J. T. Whitley were with him a part of the time.

Twelve persons were converted at Apple's Chapel, Guilford county, N. C., in September Revs. S. Apple, W. S. Long and E. W. Beale conducted the meeting.

At Liberty, Franklin county, N. C., Rev J. W. Wellons held a good meeting in September—seven converts.

A gracious revival was experienced at Antioch, Isle of Wight county, Va., in September. Fifty-eight persons were converted, and forty were received into the fellowship of the church. Rev. W B. Wellons conducted the meeting, and was assisted a part of the time by Revs. J. T. Whitley and R. Rawls.

A gracious meeting was held at Cypress Chapel, Nansemond county, Va., the last of September—twenty-six conversions and seventeen joined the church. Rev. W. B. Wellons conducted the meeting.

At Wake Chapel, Wake county, N. C., Rev. J. N. Farrell, aided by Rev. E. W. Beale, held a good meeting in September. About 10 professed faith in Christ.

Rev. J. W. Wellons, assisted by Rev. A. G. Anderson, held a gracious meeting at Pope's Chapel, Granville county, N. C., the last of September—23 converts, and 39 additions to the church.

Following the dedication of the new house of worship at Mt. Carmel, Isle of Wight county, Va., a gracious revival was experienced. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. W. B. Wellons, and the meeting was conducted afterwards by Revs. M. B Barrett and J. T. Whitley, assisted by Rev. T. W. Joyner. Forty-two persons were converted, 48 joined the church, and 29 were baptized.

Twenty-two persons were converted at New Elam, Chatham county, N. C, in September. Revs. W. G. Clements, S. Apple, C A. Boon, J W. Hatch, and others, labored in the meeting.

Following the meeting of the Deep River Conference, at Shiloh, in Randolph county, N. C. was a good revival. Ten were converted. Rev. W. R. Brown was aided in the meeting by Revs. A. Apple and W. S. Long.

At King's School House, in Alamance county, N. C, Rev. E. W. Beale held a meeting in September, which resulted in 17 conversions.

Rev. J. W. Wellons held a gracious meeting at Lebanon, Caswell county, N. C., in October—20 converted and 13 joined the church. Rev. S. Apple, the pastor, assisted.

Interesting meetings were held by Rev. C. A. Boon, assisted by Revs. T. J. Fowler, and J. W. Hatch, at Shallow Well, in Moore county, and Bethel, in Chatham county, N. C. in October.

We close this account with feelings of gratitude. Some revival meeting may not have been noted by us, and may not here be mentioned; but enough is recorded to show that a great work was done in winning souls to Christ in 1871.

Papers Published in the Interest of Christian Union.

The *Christian Sun*, organ of the CHRISTIANS in the South. Rev. W B. Wellons, Editor. Published every Friday, at Suffolk, Va —$2.50 a year. In its 25th volume W. B. Wellons & Co., Proprietors.

Herald of Gospel Liberty, organ of the Northern and Western Christians. Rev. H Y. Rush, Editor; weekly; at Dayton, Ohio—$2 a year. In its 64th volume. Christian Publishing Association.

Christian Herald, published by Rev D. P. Pike, Newburyport, Mass. Weekly—$2 a year In its 3d volume.

Christian Witness, published by the Christian Union Association, at Columbus, Ohio. Rev J. V. B. Flack, Editor—$2 a year. In its 5th volume

Christian Union, published by J. B. Ford & Co., 27 Park Place, New York—$3 a year. Henry Ward Beecher, Editor. In its 5th volume.

Christian Magazine, published monthly, at Castleton, Canada. Rev. T. Garbutt, Editor. $1 per year

Other Christian Organizations.

The first religious organization in the United States to take the name CHRISTIAN to the exclusion of all party names was the body represented in this Annual, whose organ is the CHRISTIAN SUN, of Suffolk, Va.

There are, however, several other organizations in the United States, known as Christians.

The "Christian Connection," as it is generally known in the Northern and Western States, is perhaps nearer on the platform occupied by the original Christians, in the South, than any other, but many of them have become tainted to a greater or less extent with Unitarianism, and have yet agreed upon no doctrinal basis, or declaration of principles, which prevents them from generally co-operating with the evangelical or orthodox denominations around them. They are, however, a revival people, and the great body of them a spiritual people, resembling the Methodists and Southern Christians much more in their manner of worship, than any unevangelical organization. They number, according to the Christian Almanac, published by Wm. T. Hawthorn, of Dayton, Ohio, 65 annual Conferences, 1,198 ordained and licensed ministers, 1,074 church organizations, 56,958 communicants, with 25,784 pupils in their Sabbath schools.

The "Christian Union," of the Western States, came into existence during the late war, and is nearly on the platform occupied by the Christians in Virginia, North Carolina, and other States. They number about 20,000 or 25,000 communicants—have not laid down any doctrinal basis, or set forth any declaration of principles—are generally considered orthodox, but not yet fully organized. Their churches are called churches of the Christian Union, their annual meetings Councils, and the general meeting a General Council.

The "Disciples," or adherents to the system of doctrines promulgated by the late Alexander Campbell, of Bethany, Va., are sometimes called Christians, and in many places their churches are called Christian churches, growing out of the fact that many of the ministers and churches of the "Christian Connection," in Kentucky and adjoining States, united with the Disciples when the organization first came into existence This denomination teaches that baptism by water is for the remission of sins, and that regeneration is only made complete in the act of immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit. They are quite numerous in the Western States, and have churches planted in most of the Northern and Southern States; but are in no way denominationally connected with any of the other organizations known as Christians.

Independent churches are springing up in various sections of the country, upon the almost precise platform of the Christians, such as Rev. Dr. Deem's "Church of the Strangers," and Rev. G. H. Hepworth's church, in New York, and many others in different sections of the country.

THE ANNUAL.

Our work has been delayed beyond our expectation; but no one but the editor can fully realize the difficulty of compiling such a work. It is expected that it will be continued from year to year, and that each annual issue will become more and more complete.

We pray that the publication may aid in the dissemination of CHRISTIAN principles, and do good in the cause of the Master.

If imperfections are discovered, let the mantle of charity be thrown over them, and such private suggestions be made to the editor as may ensure improvement in future issues.

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ANNUAL

OF

The Christian Church,

FOR

1872.

Volume II.

EDITED BY

REV. W. B. WELLONS.

SUFFOLK, VA.
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CONTENTS.

PAGE.

The Christians..... 3
Minutes of Eastern Virginia Conference..... 5
Statistics of Eastern Virginia Conference..... 18
Minutes of the North Carolina Conference..... 19
Statistics of the North Carolina Conference..... 33
Minutes of the Valley Virginia Conference..... 34
Minutes of the Deep River Conference..... 39
Statistics of the Deep River Conference..... 45
Minutes of Georgia and Alabama Conference..... 46
North Carolina Colored Conference..... 50
Proceedings of Sunday School Convention..... 51
Ministerial Directory..... 55
Position on Christian Union..... 56
Practice of the Christians..... 57
Benevolent Organizations..... 57
Education—Schools..... 57
Places for Meeting of the Conferences of 1873..... 57
General Convention of the Christian Church..... 58
Object of this Publication..... 58
Ordinations..... 59
Licensures..... 59
Deposed from the Ministry..... 59
New Churches Organized..... 59
Dedications..... 59
Other Christian Organizations..... 60
Papers Published in the Interest of the Christians..... 60
Revivals..... 61
Books for Sale..... Second page of cover
Life Insurance Advertisement..... Third page of cover
Christian Sun—Book and Job Office..... Last page of cover

The Christians.

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The Christians came into existence as a separate and distinct organization with the avowed purpose of seeking to unite all the true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, of every persuasion, by breaking down party spirit and sectarian feeling, and infusing into the hearts and minds of all lovers of the common Saviour, a more liberal spirit, and inducing them to pursue a more liberal practice.

With this object prominently in their minds, the founders of this organization decided to discard all party names, and adopt the simple name Christian, to the exclusion of all others, acknowledging no head to the church but Christ. They resolved to have no rule of faith and practice, but the Holy Scriptures. The test of fellowship agreed upon was Christian Character. With these principles they determined that the right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience should be accorded to, and enjoyed by all, in reference to all points of doctrine not considered essential to salvation. They decided that all who believe in, and love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, ought to be received into the fellowship and communion of the church.

The history of the Christian organization commenced near the close of the last century. The basis of organization was agreed upon in a general meeting of all who favored the reform, held at Lebanon, in Surry county, Virginia, in August, 1794. The body formed at that time, has continued with varying success until the present, spreading out into all the Southern, and many of the Western States. But the lack of prudential regulations, and the failure to lay down at first a declaration of principles and a doctrinal basis, retarded the progress of the organization for many years. The original body became, to a considerable extent, associated, in the public mind, with one or two other liberal organizations, who are not considered evangelical in their views, and thus was the progress of the Christians hindered.

It was not until the close of the late war that the active, working ministers and laymen of the church determined to set the organization right before the public, by the publication of a Declaration of Principles, setting forth their true doctrinal position ; a Form of Government, introducing system and order in their work, and a Directory for Worship, producing unifor-

mity in the administration of the sacraments, and in religious worship. Since this publication was given to the world, the progress of the Christians has been onward and even rapid in many sections.

The public now see the organization in its true character, and the future looks most hopeful and encouraging.

The strong union sentiment now prevailing to a greater or less extent in all denominations is so much in keeping with the spirit that has all along prevailed among the Christians, that the position occupied by them is regarded with more favor by liberal-minded, thinking Christian men, than ever before. All the signs of the times point to the CHRISTIAN organization as the nucleus around which the great Union Church of the future is to gather, when the evil of party names shall be seen and shunned, the Bible become the rule to all, and brotherly love and charity reign throughout the whole body.

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Second Annual Session of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

Hebron, Isle of Wight County, Oct. 30 and 31 and Nov. 1 and 2, 1872.

HEBRON, ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA., *October 30th*, 1872.

The fifty-second annual session of the EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled here this day, and was called to order by Bro. Thomas J. Kilby, President of the last session.

The Standing Secretary called the roll, and the following ministers and lay-delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS.—W. B. Wellons, M. B. Barrett, R. H. Holland, J. N. Manning, T. W. Joyner, C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley.

LAY-DELEGATES.—*Antioch*—M. H. Watkins, T. J. Clements, S. Lewis. *Barrett's*—J. M. Barrett, C. H. Scarborough. *Bethlehem*—Wm. Eley, Wiley Redd, Jno. Monelle. *Berea*—J. A. Phelps. *Cypress*—J. R. Parker. *Berea*, (Norfolk county)—Wm. P. Bland, Neriah Only. *Hebron*—Jethro Rayford, Jason Holland. *Holy Neck*—J. Oberry, M. T. Darden, I. W. Everett. *Ivor*—G. G. Brittle. *Jerusalem*—A. L. Hill. *Johnson's Grove*—James Butler. *Liberty Spring*—A. J. Rabey, J. H. Brinkley. *Mt. Carmel*—I. W. Duck, B. T. Carr. *Providence*—Curtis Ives. *Spring Hill*—H. T. West, J. H. Harris *Suffolk*—Thos. J. Kilby. *Union*—Jethro Cobb.

A quorum being present, Bro. Kilby announced that the first business in order would be the selection of a President, announcing at the same time, that having served the Conference for a number of years as its President, he did not desire a re-election, and hoped that he would not be put in nomination for the office.

The Secretary was requested to conduct the election for President.

Rev. C. A. Apple and Bro. A. L. Hill were put in nomination for President. It was decided to vote *viva voce*, and Rev. C. A. Apple receiving a majority of the votes, was declared elected.

Bro. Apple, on taking the chair, addressed the Conference, thanking them for their confidence thus expressed, and promised to do his best to give satisfaction, and make efficient the work of the body.

The choice of an Assistant Secretary was deferred for the present.

Rev. W. B. Wellons led in prayer, and sang—

"A charge to keep I have,"

and the Conference proceeded to business.

Rev. J. T. Whitley presented the following resolution, which called forth remarks from the mover and Rev. W. B. Wellons, and was adopted:

Resolved, That any member of this body leaving its sessions without permission given by vote, shall leave under the severe censure of the Conference, and that any member leaving the house without permission of the Chair, shall be under the same censure.

The opening address was then delivered by Rev. J. N. Manning, from Luke x, 42: "But one thing is needful."

"'Tis religion that can give"

was sung, and the Conference returned to its business.

Bro. C. J. Ralston, a fraternal messenger from the Valley Virginia Conference, was introduced to the body. The President gave words of welcome, to which Bro. Ralston responded appropriately.

Reports were then read from the following churches: Antioch, Barrett's, Bethlehem, Berea (Nansemond county,) Berea (Norfolk county,) Cypress, Holy Neck, Jerusalem, Johnson's Grove, Liberty, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Providence, Spring Hill, Suffolk and Union.

Letters were read from Revs. R. H. Costen, S. S. Barrett, and P. S. P. Corbin.

A petition was then read from the church at Oakland, Nansemond county, organized by Rev. W. B. Wellons, asking admission as a member of the body. The petition was unanimously granted, and Bros. B. C. Eley and Dempsey Whitehead, delegates, came forward and received the right hand of fellowship.

Rev. C. A. Apple, Jethro Rayford and Jason Holland were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

On motion, the Conference decided that during the presant session the hours of adjournment and meeting should be as follows: Meet at 9½ o'clock A. M. and adjourn at 12 o'clock M.

for public worship; meet at 2½ o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

Bro. B. C. Eley was then chosen Assistant Secretary, when the Conference adjourned. Prayer by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

THURSDAY MORNING, Oct. 31st.

Conference convened at the appointed hour. Reading the Scriptures by the President, singing by the Conference, and prayer by Rev. J. N. Manning.

Proceedings of yesterday read, amended and approved.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported, Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach to-day at 12 o'clock, and Rev. M. B. Barrett to preach to-morrow at the same hour.

Bros. George J. Costen and John R. Hinton, delegates from Damascus church, arrived and took their seats.

Bro. Jacob Lawshe, delegate from Suffolk, arrived and took his seat.

Bro. Z. E. Holland, delegate from Holy Neck, arrived and took his seat.

Bro. A. Savage, delegate from Berea, arrived and took his seat.

Bros. Jethro Riddick, James R. Saunders and Joseph Boothe, delegates from Cypress, arrived and took their seats.

Some discussion took place in reference to the tardiness of some of the delegates in arriving.

A petition was received from the church at Sharon, Camden county, N. C., organized by Rev. J. N. Manning, asking admission as a member of the body. On motion, the request was granted and the church was unanimously received, no delegate being present.

The following preamble and resolutions were presented by Bro. A. L. Hill, who explained that they should have been presented yesterday, but the declination of Bro. Kilby came unexpectedly, and no time was allowed for preparation. They were adopted by a rising vote:

WHEREAS our venerable brother, Thomas J. Kilby, has served the Conference faithfully for twenty years or more, consecutively, as its presiding officer; and whereas, at this session he has declined a re-election: Therefore—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Conference are due and are hereby tendered to Bro. Kilby in his retirement, for the faithful, prompt, and impartial manner in which he has always presided, and for his uniform politeness and courtesy to the members of the body.

Resolved, That this resolution be spread upon the records of the Conference, and our best wishes and earnest prayers shall follow our brother, hoping that his days on earth may yet be long, and his usefulness to the Church be continued to life's close.

Bro. Kilby arose and expressed his grateful appreciation of the kind feelings of the Conference toward him. The heart of the venerable man was evidently in his words, and he sat down with manifest emotion.

Bro. Kilby asked and obtained leave of absence for a day.

A letter from the church at Ivor was read, and on motion, Rev. J. T. Whitley was permitted to present the claims of that church upon the Conference, and the Christians generally.

On motion, the Ministerial reports were laid on the table, to be read to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

On motion, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. R. H. Holland and M. H. Watkins were appointed a committee to examine the church records.

Rev. J. N. Manning enquired what action should be taken in reference to those churches who do not send up their records for examination.

The President replied that no action heretofore had been taken, except to report them delinquent in this particular.

On motion, it was declared that hereafter, when a church neglected to send its records to the Conference for examination, without a reasonable excuse, that it should receive the censure of the body.

Bro. S. J. Carr, delegate from Antioch, arrived and took his seat.

Conference then took a recess, and listened to an earnest and impressive discourse by Rev. J. T. Whitley, from 1st Tim. I, 5: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

2 o'clock P. M.

Conference resumed its business.

Rev. C. A. Apple, chairman of the Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools, presented the following report:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to report, that the Sunday School Convention, held by the several Sunday Schools within the bounds of this Conference has done its work so effectively as to leave but little to be done by us in

our capacity as a committee of your body. During the past year new schools have been organized at Ivor, Cherry Grove, Sunny Side, Oakland, and Berea in Norfolk county. The number of schools in operation during the year has been thus increased to twenty-three, or five more than at our last annual report. The total number of persons engaged in the Sunday School work during the year has been between 1,600 and 1,700, or rather more than double the number reported at the organization of the Sunday School Convention. As full statistics of that body have been published, they need not be repeated here.

Several of the schools have procured new libraries during the year, and most of the schools have added considerably to their collection of books. The circulation of papers, tracts, and other transient religious literature has also considerably increased. On the whole, the state of the work is highly encouraging, compared with the results of former years. And it is a significant fact, that since the great revival in the Sunday School work, the Church has been more flourishing than ever before.

As it would be extending our report to far too great a length to enter into any logical discussion of the great subjects connected with the Sunday School work, your committee would suggest for the consideration of the members of Conference the following points:

1. Whether it is at present for the best interest of the church to attempt, in spite of adverse circumstances, a continuation of the country schools throughout the winter months?

2. Whether the work, as now performed, is not in many instances, done in so indefinite and unsystematic a manner, that there is likelihood of bad results through mere weariness and a want of something, really useful, to do?

3. Whether it be possible, under our present pastoral system, to render the Sunday School work effective?

4. Whether what is usually termed secular education, has not a very large share in placing the Sunday School work on a solid foundation?

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. APPLE,
JOHN OBERRY,
J. T. WHITLEY, } *Committee.*

Rev. C. A. Apple spoke in explanation of some points in the report.

Rev. J. T. Whitley discussed the propriety and practicability of continuing the country Sunday Schools through the winter.

The President requested the delegates and pastors of country churches to give their experience on this point. Bro. Savage, of Berea, and Bro. Clements, of Antioch, both expressed decided views in favor of continuing the schools through the winter. Bro. Duck, of Mt. Carmel, expressed a determination to try to continue his school through the winter. Rev. J. N. Manning and Rev. W. B. Wellons warmly advocated the continuance of the schools through the whole year. Rev. C. A. Apple thought in some instances it was hardly advisable to attempt to continue the schools through the winter, but thought it should be done wherever practicable.

A resolution was then adopted, recommending the continuance of the Sabbath Schools through the whole year, in the country as well as in the towns.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow morning. Religious exercises by Rev. R. H. Holland.

FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 1st, 1872.

The Conference met at the appointed hour.

The Scriptures were read by the President, the members of the Conference joining in a hymn of praise, and prayer was offered by Bro. C. J. Ralston.

Bro. C. R. Rawls, delegate from Ivor, arrived and took his seat.

Reports were read from the following ministers: W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, T. W. Joyner, R. H. Holland and J. T. Whitley.

Rev. J. T. Whitley presented the following report on church records:

REPORT.

The Committee on Church Records have examined the various record books submitted to them, and approve the following: Antioch, Barrett's, Berea (Nansemond,) Holy Neck, Johnson's Grove, Liberty Spring, Spring Hill, Suffolk, Oakland and Mt. Carmel.

The record book of Berea church, in Norfolk county, is without the regular list of members.

No books have been handed in from Bethlehem, Cypress, Damascus, Hebron, Ivor, Jerusalem, Liberty, Providence, Union and Sharon.

Respectfully submitted.

J. T. WHITLEY,
M. H. WATKINS,
R. H. HOLLAND, } *Committee.*

The following resolution, presented by Rev. W. B. Wellons, was discussed and adopted:

Resolved, That it is the duty of every church to send its records to Conference for examination, and any church neglecting to do so, will hereafter be required to give a reason, through its delegates or pastor; and if the reason be not satisfactory, the church shall be regarded as delinquent in duty.

Rev. J. N. Manning moved that the Conference proceed to fix upon a place for the next session: whereupon Cypress Chapel and Bethlehem were put in nomination. The roll being called and the votes recorded, it was announced that Cypress Chapel was selected.

On motion, Rev. M. B. Barrett was chosen to deliver the introductory sermon, or address, at the opening of the next session.

Rev. J. N. Manning and Rev. W. B. Wellons were chosen fraternal messengers to the North Carolina Conference.

Revs. W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning and J. T. Whitley were chosen fraternal messengers to the Valley Virginia Conference.

A proposition to pay the expenses of fraternal messengers was discussed, and finally laid upon the table.

Conference then took a recess for religious services.

Rev. M. B. Barrett delivered an excellent discourse from 1 Peter, I., 24, 25, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth forever."

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Leave of absence was granted after to-day to Neriah Only and Wm. P. Bland, of Berea, Norfolk county, Thos. J. Kilby, of Suffolk, and B. C. Eley and Dempsey Whitehead, of Oakland.

The Committee on Rules of Order then presented the following report, which, after being discussed, amended and altered, was adopted as follows:

REPORT.

Your committee, appointed at the last session of the Conference, to report on By-Laws or Rules of Order, would report the following:

1. That the Conference should be governed by the rules usually governing parliamentary bodies, unless the usual rule be suspended by a vote of the body.
2. The Conference, on assembling, shall be called to order by the President, or in his absence, by the Standing Secretary, who shall call the roll and ascertain if a quorum be present—a majority of all ministers and delegates presenting certificates of election, signed by the secretary of their respective churches, shall be considered a quorum.
3. If a quorum be present, the President of the last session, or the Standing Secretary, shall then proceed to hold an election for President.
4. The President may be elected by ballot or *viva voce*, as may be determined by the body, and the person receiving the majority of all votes cast, shall be declared elected.
5. The Assistant Secretary, and the Standing Secretary, when that office is vacant, shall be elected in the same manner as the President.
6. After Conference has been duly organized by the election of the necessary officers, the reports of the several churches shall be called for and read.
7. The reports of the Committees on Sunday Schools and Temperance shall be presented on the first day of the session.
8. The reports on Education and Home Missions may be presented at any time during the sitting of Conference, but should be presented on the third day if possible; provided the session shall last no more than four days.
9. Ministerial students under the care of the Board of Education shall be entitled to seats as deliberative members.
10. Fraternal messengers to the Conference shall report their visits, or assign sufficient reasons for not attending to the business assigned them.
11. The reports of the several churches shall be in such form as that adopted at our last annual session.
12. Lay members of standing committees, not delegates to Conference, shall be entitled to a hearing upon the various subjects committed to them.
13. Members of Conference shall not leave the house during the sitting of Conference, without permissian from the Chair; nor shall they absent themselves from any sitting of Conference without asking and obtaining leave.

14. Ministers or delegates being tardy, or delaying to reach Conference at the opening of the session, shall be required to give a reason for their tardiness, and shall not leave until the close without permission of the body

15. Churches, or ministers, remiss in any duty assigned them by Conference, shall be liable to censure, or, in extreme cases, expulsion, for neglect of duty.

Respectfully submitted.

C. A. APPLE,
W. B. WELLONS,
A. L. HILL,
} *Committee.*

Conference then adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

SATURDAY MORNING, Nov. 2d, 1872.

Conference convened at the appointed hour, the President in the chair. Prayer by Rev. T. W. Joyner.

Rev. W. B. Wellons, chairman of the Committee on Education, presented the following report:

REPORT.

The Educational Committee present their annual report.

The Suffolk Collegiate Institute is in successful operation, and is receiving a fair support from the friends of the enterprise. Professors King and Wright are giving much satisfaction in the Male Department, and Mrs. Sarah B. Eley, though not yet liberally patronized, is giving entire satisfaction to those whose daughters are under her care, and should receive a more liberal patronage. The arrangement for educating the sexes in the same building, entirely separate the one from the other, is perfect, and proceeds without an unharmonizing sound.

The Institute has been chartered by the General Assembly of the State, with all the powers usually bestowed upon institutions of its grade.

We regret to say that the Board of Trustees are pecuniarily embarrassed, and should at once be relieved by the liberality of the friends of the church. The building and furniture of the house has cost more than was at first anticipated, and when the building was completed our funds were exhausted and the trustees found themselves several hundred dollars behind. Individual members of the Board were bound for the debts and had to meet them. And we had no furniture and apparatus, and the grounds were not enclosed, and the house could not be painted. In this emergency, a few friends of the enterprise went forward and borrowed from Bank the sum of $1,300, and are now using it as far as it will go to make complete the work. At the same time it was decided an appeal should be made to the church to raise $1,500 in addition to amounts already subscribed and uncollected, which will be sufficient to relieve the friends who have voluntarily shouldered the responsibility and obligated themselves, and will also complete the improvements necessary in the building and its surroundings. The chairman of the Board of Education was requested to continue in the agency, and solicit in shares, half shares, and quarter shares, and in contributions, the amount needed. He has received conditional subscriptions amounting to $550, and a contribution of $15, making $565, and is now needing $935 to complete the subscription, and relieve the zealous brethren who are now bound for most of the amount. It is earnestly hoped that the members and friends of the school in attendance upon the Conference will take up this amount, or nearly all of it, at once, and let this enterprise of the church start out on a career of usefulness free from pecuniary embarrassment.

The committee have exercised a guardian care over the young men preparing for the ministry.

Bros. John T. Kitchen and J. P. Barrett have been kept at the Suffolk Collegiate Institute and have made fair progress in their studies, and seem fixed in their principles and purpose to become earnest workers in the Master's vineyard. Bro. H. H. Butler has been sustained in the school by the liberality of Bro. I. W. Duck, and Bro. N. B. Munford has thus far sustained himself in school. These four young men present much of promise to the church.

At the last session of the Conference, $250 was subscribed by the churches and individuals for the benefit of Bros. Kitchen and Barrett. Only $120.75 of this amount has been paid, leaving $129.25 still due. B. F. Cutchin & Co., of Suffolk, have furnished the young men with provisions and other necessaries, and friends have made considerable contributions in provisions, which has kept them along; but the amount still dne must be paid, or some one must lose. $27.42 remains due on subscription for 1871, which is owing Rev. C. A. Apple. This amount ought also to be paid and Bro. Apple relieved.

We think these young men should be continued at school, and Bro. N. B. Munford must now be added to the number of beneficiaries, or he will have to leave school altogether.

Bro. H. H. Butler, who has heretofore been sustained by the liberality of Bro. I. W. Duck, will be sustained the present session by Bros. Duck and Dempsey Whitehead.

We propose that $250 be raised or pledged, at once, to aid these young men to pursue their studies.

J. T. C. Pretlow tendered his resignation as a member of the Biblical Class in March last, and it was promptly accepted.

E. S. Barrett, being no longer a member of the church, his name has been dropped from the list of students, leaving only the four mentioned above now connected with the class of Biblical students.

Respectfully submitted.

W. B. WELLONS,
J. N. MANNING,
C. A. APPLE,
} *Committee.*

It was decided to take up the second part of the report first. Rev. W. B. Wellons gave a full statement of the manner in which it was proposed to continue the young men preparing for the ministry, at school, and appealed to the members of the body and friends to contribute the amount necessary to continue the young men at school. The following contributions were then made: CHURCHES—Antioch, $25; Bethlehem, $15; Berea, Nansemond county, $20; Berea, Norfolk county, $10; Cypress, $20; Damascus, $10; Hebron, $10; Ivor, $5; Jerusalem, $10; Johnson's Grove, $5; Providence, $10; Spring Hill, $25; Suffolk, $20; Holy Neck, $20. INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS—Jethro Cobb, $5; T. J. Clements, $10 (in provisions;) Mrs. Virginia Lawrence, $10; George J. Costen, $5; Mrs. A. L. Barrett, $10; John Oberry, $1; Rev. J. T. Whitley, $1; Mrs. A. L. Hill, $1; Mrs. S. L. Wellons, $1; Mrs. Sarah Oberry, $1; Mrs. Annie Kilby, $1; Mrs. Martha Redd, $1; I. W. Everett, 50 cts.; M. T. Darden, 50 cts. Total, $253.

The first part of the report was taken up, and an earnest appeal was made by Rev. W. B. Wellons, Rev. J. N. Manning, and others, in behalf of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute. The whole amount asked for by the committee in their report was

subscribed, and the thanks of the committee were expressed to the Conference and visitors for their liberality.

The report of the Educational Committee was then adopted as a whole.

The Committee on Home Missions and Ministerial Supply presented the following report:

REPORT.

The same pressing want for missionary work seen and felt for several years, still exists—in fact, the want is increasing, and is more pressing than ever before, and all this without much prospect of its being met.

The agency of the Norfolk Mission has succeeded as fully as could be anticipated under the circumstances. It could only receive attention at intervals of pressing labor at several other places, and that only from one man. Yet nearly four thousand dollars have been secured on subscription towards the erection of a house of worship in the city.

Through the same agency a new church has been organized in Camden county, N. C., and Rev. J. T. Whitley has pushed forward very successfully the project of building a house of worship at Ivor. There are, however, no regular missionaries in the field, and all mission work within the bounds of the Conference is performed by ministers who have regular pastoral duties to discharge. A large number of places, as heretofore mentioned, might be profitably occupied, if we had suitable men and means to employ them.

Your committee would suggest the propriety of making at once an effort to raise a missionary fund to aid weak churches, and to assist in the organization of new ones at suitable places. This might be done by contributions taken up in all our congregations every year, or by a small annual levy upon all our churches.

We think it well to make, if possible, our missionary work practical and operative.

Your committee would recommend also, that all the regular established churches endeavor to procure more ministerial labor. Some few churches might be able, perhaps, to employ a minister every Sabbath; others, twice a month at least—in fact, no church ought to be willing to do with less preaching than semi-monthly. It would be well, probably, for churches to be classified, so that about two could be associated together, except where one is able to employ a minister every Sabbath to fill its pulpit. We believe that our prosperity is just in proportion to the amount of labor performed.

The churches and missions of the Conference are supplied with ministerial labor as follows, viz:

Providence, Berea, near Great Bridge, and Sharon, in Camden county, N. C. Rev. R. C. Tuck.

Holy Neck and Bethlehem, Rev. C. A. Apple.

Berea, Nansemond county, Oakland, Cypress and Damascus, Rev. E. W. Beale.

Jerusalem and Liberty, to be provided for by Rev. S. S. Barrett and Bros. A. L. Hill and M. P. Rue.

Liberty Spring and Ivor, Bro. C. J. Ralston, who being only a licentiate, will be assisted by Rev. C. A. Apple at Liberty Spring, and Rev. J. T. Whitley at Ivor.

Spring Hill and Antioch, Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Mt. Carmel, Union and Barrett's, Rev. M. B. Barrett.

Hebron and Johnson's Grove, Rev. R. H. Holland.

Cool Spring, Rev. T. W. Joyner.

Suffolk, Rev. W. B. Wellons.

Norfolk Mission, Rev. J. N. Manning.

Respectfully submitted.

J. N. MANNING,
A. SAVAGE,
I. W. DUCK,
} *Committee.*

On motion of Rev. W. B. Wellons, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the pastor of every church in the Conference be requested to take up two public collections, for the benefit of the Norfolk Mission, and that the collections thus raised shall be paid over to the chairman of the Committee on Missions, who shall pay the same to the minister in charge of the Norfolk Mission, and report the amount so received and disbursed to the next session of the Conference.

The Committee on Temperance then presented the following report:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report, that we have no new arguments to offer in favor of this important question. The necessity of abstinence from intoxicating drinks and from every species of excess, is too apparent to require many words from us. Every day's experience, every advance in moral or physical science, but the more clearly demonstrates the great truth that man cannot depart from the observance of a great law of nature without the most ruinous consequences.

Your body has to deal with intemperance as it exists in the world at large; but more especially as it exists in the church. Nothing but the utmost patience and most untiring energy will accomplish desired results. We do not think that our wishes will be accomplished by this report, or by any discussion which it may call forth; but we only wish to add one "line" and one "precept" to the many already employed upon this subject, trusting that what we do may not be altogether void of good fruits.

Once more let this Conference declare its uncompromising opposition to all use of ardent spirits as a beverage, and to all manner of excess whatever.

It will at least give an additional weight of testimony to the great mass already accumulated, and, we doubt not, strengthen and confirm some of us in our determination to live and die advocating this glorious work of Christian philanthropy.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. HOLLAND,
WM. ELEY,
T. J. CLEMENTS, } *Committee.*

After a few remarks from Rev. W. B. Wellons, the report was adopted.

The Executive Committee presented the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

The Executive Committee beg leave to report that no important question has claimed our attention this year. The only business specially submitted to us at the last session, was the consideration of the question of licensing J. T. C. Pretlow to preach. We were relieved from action in this case by the resignation of Mr. Pretlow as a member of the Biblical Class.

Respectfully submitted.

W. B. WELLONS,
M. B. BARRETT,
R. H. HOLLAND, } *Committee.*

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, the thanks of the Conference was tendered to Rev. J. N. Manning for his able discourse, delivered at the opening of this Conference, and that a copy be requested for publication in the CHRISTIAN SUN.

It was moved and adopted that the proceedings be published in the *Christian Annual*.

Rev. W. B. Wellons and Rev. R. H. Holland were continued Superintendents of the colored ministers and churches.

The President then announced the following standing committees for the ensuing year:

Education—W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley.

Sunday Schools—J. N. Manning, J. Oberry, M. B. Barrett.

Temperance—J. T. Whitley, T. J. Clements, Wm. Eley.

Home Missions—W. B. Wellons, A. Savage, I. W. Duck.

Executive Committee—J. N. Manning, R. H. Holland, W. B. Wellons.

On motion, the name of the President was added to the Committee on Education.

On motion of A. L. Hill, the thanks of the Conference were tendered to the brethren and friends in the vicinity of Hebron, for the hospitable manner in which they entertained the members of the body during the session.

The Conference then listened to a few appropriate remarks from Bro. John Oberry, a parting hymn was sung, prayer was offered by Rev. W. B. Wellons, the adjournment was announced, the benediction was pronounced by the President, and the brethren separated, all feeling encouraged to go forward in their work.

C. A. APPLE, *President*.

W. B. WELLONS, *Secretary*.

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

W. B. Wellons—Have had the pastoral charge of the churches at Suffolk, Cypress, Berea, and Antioch, and have established the church at Oakland; have edited the *Christian Sun*, and superintended all the publications of the Church; have had the agency of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute; have preached regularly twice every Sabbath through the year; held five protracted meetings and aided in another—141 conversions, and about the same number added to the churches; have attended 40 funerals and married 17 couples; have preached, on an average, three times a week through the year. This has been, in some respects, the most trying year of my life, but God has brought me safely through all the trials and persecutions of enemies—has enabled me to do more work than in any one year of my life. I came to Conference broken down physically, but with love unabated for my brethren and the cause which I have cherished from my childhood.

J. N. Manning—Have given my whole time to the work of the ministry; have preached regularly at Berkley, Providence, Liberty, and Berea, and have also organized a new church at Sharon, Camden county, N. C.; have preached three times nearly every Sabbath—about 152 times during the year exclusive of lectures and exhortations; paid about 1,500 visits, and travelled over 3,000 miles; have devoted much time to the interest of our cause in Norfolk and Portsmouth, and have solicited contributions towards the erection of a house of worship in Norfolk, amounting to $4000.

R. H. Holland—Had the pastoral care of Holy Neck, Union, and Damascus churches; delivered 40 public discourses, attended six funerals, and married eight or ten couples; received $180 for ministerial services.

Thos. W. Joyner—Have preached regularly at Johnson's Grove and Cool Spring, and visited other churches; delivered 60 sermons, offered 160 public prayers, preached 24 funerals, married 20 couples, delivered 3 Sabbath School lectures, and visited many sick persons.

M. B. Barrett—Have preached regularly at Barrett's, Mt. Carmel, and the colored church at Union Hill, and occasionally at Elam, a Baptist church. At my protracted meetings 67 persons were converted; delivered 76 sermons, 40 funeral discourses, several Sabbath School lectures, baptized 40 believers by immersion, and married 10 couples; have not done all I desired; would gladly devote my whole time to the work of the ministry.

C. A. Apple—Preached during the year as pastor of three churches: Bethlehem, Liberty Spring and Hebron, and at Holy Neck once a month. My pastoral work has been less successful than it would have been, had I not been compelled to engage in other pursuits to enable me to support myself and family; have delivered 75 sermons and other discourses.

S. S. Barrett—Had no regular charge; have aided Bro. Manning as opportunity offered; preached 5 funerals the past year and married 5 couples. My health has improved, and I am now ready to do what I can in the work of the ministry.

R. H. Costen—Have been forced to retire from the regular work of the ministry; have preached occasionally in a private family at Atlantic City.

J. T. Whitley—Have had the pastoral charge of the churches at Spring Hill and Ivor, and have preached occasionally for the pastor, at Antioch and Oakland, and for sometime past, twice a month, in the afternoon, at Sunnyside. At Spring Hill 29 persons have been received into the church, and at Ivor 8 have been received; have delivered, during the year, 100 sermons. Spending the first part of the year in College, I was not able to do as much pastoral work as I desired; am now ready to give my whole time to the work.

P. S. P. Corbin—Have been compelled to devote my whole time to my profession as a physician.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY-DELEGATES.	Reported last Session.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. communicants.	Sunday Schools.	Connected with Sunday Schools.	Paid Pastor.	To educate y'ng preachers.	Other purposes.	Whole amount.	Value of church Property.
Antioch,	W. B. Wellons,	M. H. Watkins, T. J. Clements, S. Lewis, S. J. Carr.	570	23	9	21	14	11	538	3	352	350	40	73	463	3,000
Barrett's,	M. B. Barrett,	J. M. Barrett, C. H. Scarborough	97	7	1		1	1	101			50			50	1,000
Bethlehem,	C. A. Apple,	Wm. Eley, W. Redd, J. Monelle	220				4		216	1	57	175	15	11	201	800
Berea, (Nan'd)	W. B. Wellons,	J. A. Phelps, A. Savage,	68	16	1		4		79	1	85	150	20	55	225	1,500
Berea, (Nor'k)	J. N. Manning,	W. P. Bland, N. Onley,	31	13			2		42	1	125	100		17	117	2,000
Cypress,	W. B. Wellons,	J. Riddick, J. R. Saunders, J. Boothe, J. R. Parker,	355	14	4	2	5		358	1	109	375	20	30	425	1,800
Damascus,	R. H. Hollaud,	G. J. Costen, J. R. Hinton,	105	17	1	2	1		103	1	66	80		25	105	800
Hebron,	C. A. Apple,	J. Rayford, J. Holland,	92		6			2	84	1	38	75	10	50	135	800
Holy Neck,	R. H. Holland,	J. Oberry, Z. E. Holland, I. W. Everett, M. T. Darden,	386	1	3	1	5	1	377	1	66	150	30	170	350	2,000
Ivor,	J. T. Whitley,	G. G. Brittle, C. R. Rawls,	23	8	2				29	1	40	15	5	200	220	500
Jerusalem,	J. N. Manning,	A. L. Hill,	38			2	1	1	34	1	48	250	20	90	360	1,000
Johnson'sGrove	T. W. Joyner,	James Butler,	29						29	1	95					300
Liberty,	J. N. Manning,		25						25	1	44	100		25	125	1,000
Liberty Spring,	C. A. Apple,	A. J. Rabey, J. H. Brinkley,	54	9		2			61	1	67	60		10	70	10
Mt. Carmel,	M. B. Barrett,	I. W. Duck, B. T. Carr,	80	35			2	2	111	1	188	80	45	50	175	1,200
Oakland,	W. B. Wellons,	B. C. Eley, D. Whitehead,		27			1		26	1	71			781	781	1,000
Providence,	J. N. Manning,	Curtis Ives,	106		6	45			55	1	35	300	15	40	355	1,500
Sharon,	J. N. Manning,			10					10							500
Spring Hill,	J. T. Whitley,	H. T. West, J H. Harris,	105	29	1		2		131	2	133	200	30	50	280	1,500
Suffolk,	W. B. Wellons,	T. J Kilby, J. Lawshe,	141	33	1	3			167	1	145	150	25	250	400	3,500
Union,	R. H. Holland,	Jethro Cobb,	44				1	1	42	1	42	50		120	170	650
			2569	242	35	78	43	19	2618	22	1806	$2,710	$275	$2,047	$5,007	26,860

☞ For names and Post Office address of Ministers, see Ministerial Directory.

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-Seventh Annual Session of the N. Carolina and Va. Christian Conference

HELD AT

Shallow Well, Moore County, Nov. 15, 16, 18 and 19, 1872.

SHALLOW WELL, MOORE COUNTY, N. C.,
November 15*th*, 1872.

The NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled at this place to-day, and was called to order by the former President, Rev. S. Apple.

The roll of ministers and churches was called, and the following responded:

ELDERS.—Thos. J. Fowler, S. Apple, A. Apple, J. W. Wellons, A. Iseley, A. G. Anderson, J. N. Farrell, William H. Franks, W. S. Long, E. W. Beale, W. T. Walker, C. A. Boon, J. W. Hatch, Wm. G. Clements and D. A. Long.

DELEGATES.—J. M. O'Kelly, H. T. May, M. L. Winston, J. D. Langston, W. A. Sorrell, M. Womble, M. S. Stephens, N. G. Woodell, J. W. Holt, J. W. Harden, W. K. Martin, Jr., T. B. Farrar, V. Ivey, Isaac Easom, John T. Ball, J. D. Johnson, John Thomas, B. E. Smith, John Kelly, Jacob Gaster, George Hunt, J. W. Pinnix, R. N. Hughes, J. J. Jenkins, Wm. H. Bunting, Tobias Waynock, James Hatcher, J. W. Boyd, Stephen P. Read, M. Murchison, Chas. Penington.

A quorum being present, Conference proceeded to business. Religious services by Rev. T. J. Fowler.

The first business in order was the election of a President, which resulted in the choice of Rev. J. W. Wellons.

Rev. D. A. Long was chosen Assistant Secretary.

Rev. W. B. Wellons was invited to a seat in Conference. He responded in a few appropriate remarks.

Conference then listened to the introductory sermon, which was delivered by Rev. A. G. Anderson, in a very plain and practical way, from II. Tim., 4, 2.

Conference resumed its session immediately after preaching.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, Rev C. A. Boon and Bros. Jacob Gaster and George Hunt were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

Conference then adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

2 o'clock P. M.

Conference met. The President in the chair.

On motion, the annual reports from the various churches were called for and read.

The new church, which had been organized at Morrisville, N. C., by Rev. W. G. Clements, was received into the Conference.

The Secretary read a letter from Rev. H. B. Hayes, who was not able to attend the Conference.

The committee appointed at the last session to prepare rules of order, then reported. Pending the discussion of the report, a motion to adjourn was made by Rev. J. W. Hatch and carried. Religious exercises by Rev. A. Iseley.

Saturday Morning, Nov. 16th.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President. Prayer by Rev. S. Apple.

The proceedings of yesterday were read, and after some corrections, were approved.

Rev. R. C. Tuck appeared and took his seat.

Bros. John T. Kernodle and D. F. Kernodle, delegates from Bethlehem, O. M. Dorsett and J. D. Dowdy, delegates from Hank's Chapel, W. W. Johnson and A. Austin, delegates from Wake Chapel, appeared and took their seats.

Bro. John Bland, from Hank's Chapel, was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

The annual reports from the churches at Bethlehem, Pope's Chapel and Zion were then read.

The unfinished business of yesterday was then taken up. After some discussion and amendments, the following rules of order were unanimously adopted:

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The President shall take the chair at the hour to which the Conference adjourned, and call the Conference to order.

2. Each morning session shall be opened with religious exercises, and each afternoon session shall be closed in the same way, under the direction of the President.

3. At the opening of each daily session, the Secretary shall read the proceedings of the previous day, and the Conference correct and prepare them for registration.

4. It shall be the duty of the President, or the privilege of a member, to call any brother to order who may indulge in personal reflections or irrelevant debate.

5. The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Conference, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once.

6. The President shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise ordered by Conference.

7. The President may participate in debate by calling a member to the chair.

8. The President shall vote on no question, except in case of a tie or when the vote is taken by ballot or by ayes and nays.

9. The President shall rise from the chair in putting all questions to the Conference.

10. No member shall speak on any question without rising from his seat and respectfully addreesing the Chair as Mr. President.

11. No member shall be permitted to speak more than once on any question, except by permission of the Conference.

12. No member shall pass between the Chair and a member while speaking, nor interrupt him, except by permission to explain.

13. Members shall not converse together so as to disturb the Conference.

14. Members shall retain their seats, unless rising to speak or for the purpose of retiring; and no member shall retire without permission of the President.

15. Members are required to vote in all cases, unless excused by the Conference.

16. Any member who may be absent at the beginning of the Conference shall, on his arrival, render to Conference his excuse for tardiness; and no member shall leave Conference before its final adjournment without permission from the body.

17. No motion shall be debated or entertained until the same shall be seconded.

18. All motions and resolutions, made and seconded, shall be open for debate, except the motions to adjourn and to lie on the table, which questions shall be decided without debate.

19. There may be an amendment to an amendment, but no more; and all amendments must be disposed of before the vote is taken on the main question.

20. The decision of all questions shall be by "aye" or "nay." The yeas and nays shall be recorded upon the journal by the call of one-fifth of the members present.

21. All motions, resolutions and amendments shall be reduced to writing, if required by the President or any member.

22. All reports of committees shall be made in writing.

23. No motion for reconsideration shall be in order, except by a member who voted with the majority, and such reconsideration cannot be moved after the succeeding day.

24. All motions or resolutions indefinitely postponed, shall not be called up during the session.

25. These rules shall be read at the opening of each annual sossion of Conference, and at such other times as Conference may direct.

26. These rules of order shall not be suspended or altered, except by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Conference then adjourned to listen to preaching by Rev. W. S. Long, of Graham, N. C., from the 1st chapter, 6th and 7th verses of Haggai.

2 o'clock P. M.

Conference met; President in the chair.

On motion, ministerial reports were called for and read. The following responded: Revs. W. G. Clements, D. A. Long, A.

G. Anderson, C. A. Boon, D. T. Deanes, W. T. Walker, J. W. Hatch, T. J. Fowler, S. Apple, A. Iseley, J. N. Farrell, E. W. Beale, W. S. Long.

On motion of Rev. A. Apple, Rev. W. R. Brown, of the Deep River Conference, was invited to a seat in the Conference as a fraternal messenger.

On motion, Rev. J. N. Farrell was excused from further attendance during the present session, as duties of an imperative nature called him away.

The Educational Committee then made a partial report.

REPORT.

The Educational Committee ask leave to submit the following partial report:

We have examined J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp, Stephen J. Ellis, A. F. Iseley, W. W. Staley, and J. W. Pinnix, on all the branches of learning required by the government of the church, and find that they have made considerable proficiency in their studies. These young men come well recommended by their pastors and the churches of which they are members. We therefore take pleasure in recommending them to this Conference for licensure. W. S. LONG, *Chm'n.*

Adopted.

On motion, the Secretary was requested to condense the ministerial reports, and have them published with the proceedings of Conference.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the President was directed by Conference to appoint a committee to present the license to those members of the Biblical class who are not present at this Conference.

The President then called Rev. W S. Long to the chair, and moved that Rev. S. Apple be appointed with him on the Committee on Home Missions. Carried.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, Rev. J. W. Hatch was added to the same committee.

On motion, Bro. S. P. Read was excused from further attendance on Conference on account of the sickness of some of his family.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools then reported.

REPORT.

We, your Sabbath School Committee, are much pleased at the interest shown in the Sabbath School work this year. Many of our pious brethren and sisters, who, a few years ago, were nearly silent upon this great subject, have become earnest Sabbath School workers.

There was a Sabbath School Convention held at O'Kelly's last June, which gave much life to the cause within the bounds of the Conference. But notwithstanding the efforts that have been made, some two or three churches have been destitute of schools. This ought not to have been so; for no church can prosper in this enlightened day without a Sabbath School.

We would recommend that the Bible, with such other good religious books as can be procured, be used in the schools. As Sabbath School papers we think the *Christian Sun*, published at Suffolk, Va., by Rev. W. B. Wellons & Co., and *Morning Light* and *Child's Paper*, published by the American Tract Society, very good.

Number of schools 19, with 148 officers and teachers, and 1000 pupils, and 41 Bible classes have been reported.

Let us all be more determined, God being our helper, to make the Sabbath School cause more successful than it ever has been, for it is one of the greatest auxiliaries in promulgating the blessed influences of the Gospel that has ever been found.

Bespectfully submitted.

W. G. CLEMENTS, *Chm'n.*

This report called forth earnest remarks from the chairman of the committee, Rev. W. B. Wellons and Rev. W. S. Long.

On motion, the report on Sabbath Schools was laid on the table until 10 o'clock Monday morning.

On motion, Bros. Harden and Ivey were excused from any further attendance upon the sessions of Conference.

On motion of Rev. E. W. Beale, Conference adjourned until 9 o'clock A. M. Monday.

Religious services by Rev. A. Apple.

MONDAY MORNING, Nov. 18th.

Conference met. The President in the chair. Religious services by Rev. W. G. Clements.

The proceedings of Saturday were read, and, after some corrections, approved.

The report on Sabbath Schools was then taken up. Remarks were made by Revs. A. Iseley, A. Apple, S. Apple, A. G. Anderson, and Bro. J. T. Ball.

Rev. W. S. Long then moved that the report on Sabbath Schools be amended by appointing Bro. Thos. B. Farrar a lecturer on Sabbath Schools within the bounds of this Conference. Remarks were made by Revs. E. W. Beale, D. A. Long, A. Iseley, W. T. Walker, Wm. S. Long and Jas. W. Wellons. Adopted.

The vote was then taken on the original report, and carried.

On motion, the President appointed Rev. W. G. Clements, Rev. W. S. Long and Bro. W. K. Martin a Committee on Church Records.

Rev. W. T. Walker was chosen to deliver the next annual sermon before this Conference.

On motion, Conference went into the selection of a place of meeting for the next annual session of this body. Pope's Chapel, Company Shops and Damascus were put in nomination. After remarks by some of the brethren, Company Shops was selected.

Rev. C. A. Boon moved that the time for the meeting of the Conference be changed from the present to Friday before the third Sabbath in October. Rev. J. W. Hatch moved to amend by changing to Friday before second Sabbath in October. After some explanatory remarks by Revs. W. B. Wellons, A. Iseley, and others, the original motion, with the amendment, were both withdrawn.

On motion, Conference adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M., to listen to preaching by Rev. S. Apple, from Matthew XXIV, 14.

2 o'clock P. M.

Conference met; the President in the chair.

On motion of Rev. A. Apple, Rev. D. A. Long was received back into this Conference, he having been absent for two or three years, laboring within the bounds of another Conference.

On motion, Bros. M. Stephens, John Kelly and J. G. Dowdy were excused from further attendance on the present session of Conference.

On motion of Rev. W. G. Clements, a Committee on Periodicals was appointed by the President, consisting of Revs. W. S. Long, W. G. Clements and Bro. Thos. B. Farrar.

The Secretary read a communication from the Rev. W. C. Kennette, of the M. P. Church.

Rev. A. Iseley offered the following:

Resolved, That this Conference express its gratification at the reception of a communication from Rev W. C. Kennette, a fraternal messengee of the M. P. Church, to attend the session of this body, and appoint Revs. J. W. Wellons, W S. Long, and A. Iseley, messengers to bear fraternal greetings to our Methodist Protestant brethren at the next session of their Conference.

Carried.

The Committee on Education then reported the following, which called forth remarks from Revs. W. B. Wellons, W. S. Long, S. Apple, E. W. Beale, A. Iseley, A. G. Anderson and J. W. Hatch:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education ask leave to submit the following additional report:

The young men who were received into the Biblical class last year were put into school soon afterward. The advancement of W. W. Staley, we are informed by Dr. Craven, President of Trinity College, is very satisfactory. He has taken the first honor in his class on every examination since he entered College. He is now in the junior class, half advanced.

J. W. Holt, S. I. Ellis, P. T. Klapp, and A. F. Iseley have been in the Graham High School, and have made satisfactory advancement in their studies. A. T. Whitsitt is not in school now, but expects to enter soon.

We have received during the past year $183.45, which is only a small part of the amount pledged by the churches at last Conference for educational purposes.

Below we give the names of subscribers and the amount paid:

Mrs. Artelia Turner	$ 5 00	Damascus	$ 4 30
B. Hazell	5 00	W. S. Long	20 00
O'Kelly's Chapel	15 00	Pope's Chapel	12 20
Bethlehem	3 00	Oak Level	5 00
Providence	12 00	Hayes' Chapel	6 00
Mrs. E. J. Strader	5 00	New Elam	5 00
Rev. J. W. Wellons	10 00	Martha's Chapel	5 00
Lebanon	10 25	Bethel	1 00
Rev. S. Apple	10 00	Mrs. Pettie White	5 00
Pleasant Grove	5 00	Damascus	5 70
Mt. Auburn	10 00	Rev. E. W. Beale	10 00
Rev. A. Iseley	5 00	Mrs. E. J. Beale	2 00
Rev. A. Apple	5 00		
Apple's Chapel	3 00		$183 45

The whole expense incurred for the education of the students for the ministry, above referred to, has been $313.59. Of this amount we have paid $183.45, which leaves a balance of $130.14 still unpaid.

We recommend that the balance be raised and paid at once. The churches and ministers in arrears will, we trust, respond to this without delay.

We further recommend that the ministers and brethren endeavor to secure at least as much for educational purposes during the coming year as was pledged last year.

W. S. LONG, *Chm'n.*

The following brethren said they would be one of ten to pay the amount that yet remained unpaid: S. Apple, W. K. Martin, Jr., A. Apple and J. W. Wellons.

Conference then adjourned to meet again to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M. Religious services by Rev. Thos. J. Fowler.

TUESDAY MORNING, Nov. 19, 1872.

Conference met; the President in the chair. Religious services by Rev. A. G. Anderson.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, the words "Removed to the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference," were placed opposite the name of Rev. C. A. Apple.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, Rev. E. W. Beale's resignation as Secretary af the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference was accepted.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, Rev. E. W. Beale was granted a transfer to the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.

On motion, Rev. D. A. Long was chosen Standing Secretary of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference, to take effect at the close of the present session.

The following resolution, offered by Rev. E. W. Beale, was adopted :

Resolved, That the hour of 3 o'clock P. M. be set apart for special prayer to God in behalf of the Church.

The unfinished business of yesterday was then taken up.

The following brethren said they would be one of ten to pay what was yet due: Revs. W. T. Walker, W. S. Long, Thos. J. Fowler, J. W. Boyd, J. W. Hatch and C. A. Boon.

These brethren were pledged only to pay such a part of the fifty dollars as they have pledged, after all was collected that could be of that which the churches and individuals had already pledged.

Conference then proceeded to see what amount the various churches would pledge for the education of young men preparing for the gospel ministry. The Secretary then called the roll, and the following amounts were pledged: O'Kelly's Chapel, $10 ; Apple's Chapel, $15 ; Catawba Spring, $5 ; Good Hope, $5; Christian Chapel, (paid), $3 ; New Providence, $20 ; Oak Level, $10 ; Damascus, $10 ; Liberty Hill, $5 ; Moore Union, $5 ; Mt. Auburn, $10 ; Bethel, $5 ; Shallow Well, $5 ; Zion, $5 ; Martha's Chapel, $5 ; Union, (Va.) $5 ; Hank's Chapel, $10 ; Antioch, $5 ; Pleasant Grove, (Va.) $5.

The following amounts were pledged by individuals : J. W. Wellons, $10 ; A. Apple, (paid) $25 ; S. Apple, $10 ; A. G. Anderson, $5 ; J. D. Johnson, $5 ; H. B. Hayes, $5 ; A. Iseley, $10 ; T. J. Eowler, (paid) $5 ; W. G. Clements, $5 ; J. I. Hobby, $5 ; John T. Ball, $5 ; Wm. Bland, (paid) $5 ; Thos. B. Farrar, $5 ; R. C. Tuck, $5 ; E. W. Beale, $5 ; Mrs. J. M. Gunter, (paid) $5 ; Mrs. M. Gunter, (paid) $5 ; Miss E. G. Watson, (paid) $5 ; J. W. Hatch, (paid) $5 ; J. W. Boyd, $5 ; James Crocker, (paid) $3 ; J. A. Gunter, (paid) $3 ; W. K. Martin, Jr., (paid) $10 ; J. D. Gunter, (paid) $1; T. H. May, (paid) $5 ; J. B. Watson, (paid) $1 ; J. M. O'Kelly, $3; S. J. Ellis, $1; Chas. Pennington, (paid) $1.

On motion, the resignation of Rev. Thomas J. Fowler, as Treasurer of this Conference, was accepted.

On motion, Rev. A. Iseley was chosen Treasurer of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference.

On motion, the Treasurer was directed to pay all the money he has on hand, collected for educational purposes, to the Committee on Education.

On motion, Conference went into the election of fraternal messengers.

Revs. A. G. Anderson, W. S. Long, A. Iseley and A. Apple

were chosen fraternal messengers to the Deep River (N. C.) Conference.

Revs. J. W. Wellons and S. Apple were chosen fraternal messengers to the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.

Rev. A. Apple was appointed fraternal messenger to the Valley Virginia Christian Conference.

On motion, the report on Temperance was laid on the table until 7 o'clock P. M.

The Committee on Church Records then reported the following:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Church Records beg leave to report. We have examined the records of the following churches: Mt. Bethel, Zion, Shallow Well, Moore Union, Pleasant Hill, Chatham, New Providence, Christian Chapel and New Elam, and find all a little deficient in one or more of the following particulars: in recording the organization of the church, in not recording the Treasurer's reports, or in not keeping the roll according to the form recommended by Conference a few years ago.

We would mention the book at New Providence as being nearer correct than any other.

We would urge all the churches to be prompt in sending their church books to the Conference.

W. G. CLEMENTS, *Chm'n.*

After remarks by some of the brethren, the report was adopted.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, Conference adjourned.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Conference met; the President in the chair.

The President gave an account of the condition of the Colored Conference, of which he had been Superintendent. Remarks were made by Revs. E. W. Beale, W. S. Long, A. Iseley and D. A. Long. They urged the necessity of aiding the colored people all we could.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Wellons was reappointed Superintendent of the North Carolina Colored Conference. Bros. Hays and Clements were also appointed to attend the next annual session of this Conference.

On motion, Revs. A. Apple and T. J. Fowler were excused from further attendance upon the sessions of this body.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, Conference decided to publish the proceedings in the *Christian Annual.* The Secretary called the roll of churches, and the following amounts were pledged for the publication: O'Kelly's, 1.10; Good Hope, (paid) 1.00; Pope's Chapel, (paid) 4.00; Shallow Ford, 1.00; Pleasant Hill, (paid) 95; Catawba Spring, 2.25; Lebanon, 1.80; Providence, (paid) 4.80; Oak Level, 3.00; Damascus,

90; Hayes' Chapel, 1.80; Smyrna, (paid) 75; Mt. Auburn, (paid) 4.00; Liberty Hill, (paid) 2.60; Bethlehem, 2.00; Shallow Well, 1.50; Concord, (paid) 1.50; Zion, 1.25; Union, (Va.) 3.00; Hines' Chapel, 1.15; Hank's Chapel, (paid) 2.00; Antioch, (paid) 30; Pleasant Union, 75; Pleasant Grove, Va., (paid) 1.50; Morrisville, 75.

The Committee on Periodicals then reported the following, which called forth some explanatory remarks from the editor, Revs. W. S. Long, R. C. Tuck and S. Apple, after which it was adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Periodicals ask leave to report. We are glad to be able to say to this Conference that we find the CHRISTIAN SUN, published at Suffolk, Va., and edited by Rev. W. B. Wellons, to be a true and faithful exponent of the principles and interests of the Christian Church.

We therefore heartily endorse the CHRISTIAN SUN as the organ of this Conference.

We recommend the CHRISTIAN SUN as a good family newspaper, replete with good articles of original matter, pertaining to religion, temperance, Sunday Schools, and various other items of interest.

We desire to see its circulation extended among our people and among the masses, and pledge ourselves to aid in securing this important end.

W. S. LONG, *Chm'n.*

Rev E. W. Beale offered a resolution of thanks to the citizens for their kind hospitality, and the various railroads for half-fare tickets.

A resolution of thanks was tendered to the officers of Conference, for the faithful manner in which they had discharged their duties.

The Executive Committee then reported the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

The Executive Committee ask leave to submit their report.

A short time after the adjournment of your last session, we did, according to an order of your body, respond to a fraternal letter addressed this Conference by Bro. J. J. Greeson, of the Christian Union of the West. The letter we wrote to Bro. Greeson was published in the CHRISTIAN SUN and the *Christian Witness*. Since that correspundence ended there has been nothing to claim our atteution.

We endeavored to open a correspondence with W. D. Moffitt, but without success. We have, therefore, nothing to report in his case.

We wrote to J. K. Gibson, in relation to the surrender of his credentials as a licentiate, and learn that he is still anxious for this Conference to accept them. He is not now a member of the Christian Church, having withdrawn some time ago. We, therefore, recommend the acceptance of his credentials, and the erasure of his name from the list of licentiates.

A. ISELEY, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on Home Missions then reported the following, which wss adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions beg leave to announce the following appointments for the ensuing year:

J. W. Wellons to preach at Oak Level, Pope's, Good Hope, Fuller's, Union, Va.

W. T. Walker at Hines' Chapel, Salem Chapel, Mt. Bethel.
A. G. Anderson at Concord, Monticello.
C. A. Boon at Shallow Well, Zion, Moore Union, Union Hill, Bethel.
W. S. Long, Principal Graham High School, Providence and Mt. Auburn.
A. Iseley at Union, N. C.. Shallow Ford, Apple's, Bethlehem.
W. G. Clements at Morrisville, Hayes' Chapel, Christian Chapel, New Elam, Pleasant Hill, Johnson.
S. Apple at Lebanon, Pleasant Grove, Mt. Pisgah.
D. T. Deanes at Liberty School House.
J. N. Farrell at Wake Chapel, Catawba Springs, Lockville.
E. W. Beale transferred to Eastern Virginia Conference.
T. J. Fowler at Hanks' Chapel.
A. Apple at O'Kelly's, Martha's Chapel.
R. G. Tinnen not heard from.
J. W. Hatch at Pleasant Hill, Antioch.
H. B. Hayes without work, at his request.
D. A. Long, Associete Principal Graham High School and Damascus.
R. C. Tuck to labor in Eastern Virginia.
W. H. Franks at Smyrna, Pleasant Union, Pleasant Grove, N. C.
P. W. Allen not heard from.
C. Allen not heard from.
L. C. Madison, dropped.
Thos. Truit to preach at Shallow Ford and labor in the Sunday School cause.
M. L Hurley at Mt. Zion, King's School House, and to preach at Union.
J. W. Holt, S. I. Ellis, R. W. Pinnix, W. W. Staley, P. T. Klapp, A. R. Iseley, licentiates in the hands of the Executive Committee.
Churches to be supplied—Reece's, Rock Hill, Midway, Brown's Chapel, Gant's Chapel, Newbern. J. W. WELLONS, *Chm'n.*

On motion, the name of L. C. Madison was dropped from the roll of licentiates, and the Secretary was directed to call on him for the surrender of his credentials as a minister.

The President then announced the following standing committees:

Executive Committee—A. Iseley, W. S. Long and A. G. Anderson.

Educational Committee—W. S. Long, A. G. Anderson and S. Apple.

Home Missions—D. A. Long, S. Apple and W. T. Walker.

Sabbath Schools—D. A. Long, J. N. Farrell and J. W. Hatch.

Temperance—S. Apple, W. G. Clements and A. Apple.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, his name was taken from the Committee on Home Missions, and the name of Rev. J. W. Wellons substituted.

The Secretary then read a letter from Rev. Thomas Truitt.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the propriety of leaving off the name of Virginia from this Conference, was referred to the churches in Virginia, with the understanding that their desire be expressed through their delegates at the next session of this body.

Conference then adjourned until 7 o'clock P. M.

7 o'clock P. M.

Conference met; the President in the chair.

The report on Temperance was taken up, and after being discussed by Bros. W. T. Walker, W. B. Wellons, S. Apple, J. T. Ball, E. W. Beale, C. A. Boon and J. W. Wellons, was unanimously adopted as follows:

REPORT.

In consideration of the fact that this subject has been made the theme of annual report, not only by this body, but by others of similar character; and seeing that all these reports, notwithstanding the numerous resolutions and suggestions therein contained and adopted by the various bodies to which reported, have, to a great extent, failed of their object, your committee are at a loss to know how to report upon this subject, so as to have that report adopted by this body, and at the same time accomplish, so far as may be in the power of this Conference, the great object at which we aim.

Instead of temperance in all things, according to the best informanion we have been able to gather, we are being swept away by intemperance at the rate of 60,000 annually in the United States.

Evil as are the effects of excess, in whatever it may consist, it is most of all to be dreaded in the use of intoxicating drinks.

Its evils in this respect are incalculable, affecting not only the peace of society, but impeding the progress of religion In consideration of this fact, your committee offer the following for your consideration and adoption:

Whereas, Intemperance is inconsistent with the spirit of christianity; and

Whereas, The use of ardent spirits as a beverage leads to intemperance—therefore,

Resolved, That no person who is known to be in the habitual use of ardent spirits as a beverage, shall be allowed to hold a ministerial license by authority of this Conference.

Resolved, That no church ought to tolerate the manufacture or traffic of ardent spirits as a beverage, by its members.

Respectfully submitted, W. T. WALKER, *Chm'n.*

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at Company Shops, at 10 o'clock A. M. on Friday before the third Sabbath in November, 1873.

J. W. WELLONS, *President.*

E. W. Beale, *Secretary*
D. A. Long, *Ass't Sec'y.*

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

A. Apple—Had the pastoral charge of two churches, and preached regularly at other points. Visited the Deep River Conference. Hope some good has been done. To the Lord be all the praise.

J. W. Wellons—Had the pastoral charge of five churches, and preached occasionally at two other churches Received about thirty members. Held a protracted meeting at each of my pastoral charges, and assisted in three others. Received about $400 for my services.

J. W. Hatch—Have been regularly employed in the work of the ministry the most of the time during the past Conference year. My labors have been blessed, and I am encouraged to go forward in the path of duty.

S. Apple—Have preached at four places monthly during the past Conference year. Have preached about sixty sermons. I think the churches under my care are doing well.

T. J. Fowler—During the past Conference year I have preached regularly at Hank's Chapel and Martha's Chapel. In consequence of the distance to my appointments, I have not done as much pastoral visiting as I desired.

D. T. Deanes—Had the pastoral charge of one church, and have preached at other places whenever an opportunity was afforded.

C. A. Boon—Had the pastoral charge of three churches. Assisted in nine protracted meetings Received six members in the church. Preached 76 sermons. My labors have been blessed. To God be the praise.

J. N. Farrell—Had charge of two churches. Attended six protracted meetings. Received 28 in the church. Baptized 20.

D. A. Long—A part of the last Conference year was spent in the Valley of Virginia. Came to this Conference last May, and since that time have preached whenever an opportunity afforded. Hope that my humble efforts have been blessed.

R. C. Tuck—Have preached monthly at Good Hope and Oak Level, and occasionally at other places. Have resolved to give myself wholly to the great work of preaching Christ, believing that he who preaches the gospel shall live of the gospel.

Thomas Truitt—Preached in connection with Bro. Iseley at Shallow Ford, and had charge of the Sabbath School. Hope that the Lord has blessed my feeble efforts to do good.

A. Iseley—Had the pastoral charge of four churches, and preached occasionally at other places. Held four protracted meetings and assisted other brethren. Received in the churches of my charge fifty members, and received as a pecuniary compensation about $200. The prospect before me is encouraging. To God be all the praise.

A. G. Anderson—Had the pastoral charge of one church, at which I have preached semi-monthly. Have also preached at other places as opportunity would offer. Hope that my labors have been blessed.

W. T. Walker—Had the pastoral charge of three churches and preached monthly at the fourth. Held four protracted meetings. Received nine members. My labors have been blessed, and I feel greatly encouraged.

W. G. Clements—Had charge of four churches. Organized a new church at Morrisville. Tried to preach about one hundred sermons. Received in the church 27 members. Amount received about $200. The Lord has greatly blessed me, and I am greatly encouraged.

E. W. Beale—Had charge of three churches, and preached regularly the most of the year at four other places. Received 21 members, and received as a pecuniary compensation about $300.

W. S. Long—Have served Providence church as pastor, and preached three Sabbaths in each month. My pastoral charge enjoyed a precious season of revival. About fifty professed to be converted. Visited the Deep River Conference. I have reason to be thankful for Divine favors, and pray God's blessing on what I may have done according to his will

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. communicants.	Paid Pastor.	For education	Paid for other purposes.	Whole amount paid.	Value Church Property.	No. S. Schools.
O'Kelly's Chapel	A. Apple,	12	9		1		130	$150	20	$30	$200	$750	1
New Elam,	W.G. Clements,	3	2	1	1	1	70	35	5	20	60	500	1
Hines' Chapel,	W T. Walker,	6				1	32	45			45	750	1
Mt. Bethel,	W. T. Walker,		1		3	3	34	21			21	800	
Liberty Hill,	J. W. Wellons,	1				9	78	55		2	57	300	1
Pleasant Hill, C.	J. W. Hatch,	1			1	12	67	32			32	300	1
Pleasant Grove,	S. Apple,	2			2			74	5		79	1200	1
Concord,	A.G. Anderson,	8		1			55	30			30	400	
Christian Chapel	W.G. Clements,	13		2	1	2	142	75		250	325	500	1
Shallow Well,	C. A. Boon,	8	1				72	75	5	35	115	400	
Shallow Ford,	A. Iseley,	14					55	38			38	300	1
Liberty S. H.,	D. T. Deanes,		1		1		17		16		16		
Mt. Pisgah,	S. Apple,						20						1
Pleasant Union,	W. H. Franks,						19						
Moore Union,	C. A. Boon,	3				1	27	25			25		
Providence,	W. S. Long,	25			3	1	296	114	12	250	376	3000	1
Catawba Spring,	J. N. Farrell,						87	50			65	500	1
Mt. Auburn,	J. W. Wellons,	11	1	1	1	1	89	135	10	8	153	1000	1
Smyrna,	W. H. Franks,	1			1	1	27	3			3	500	
Union,	A. Iseley,	10	1		1		233	60	8		68	800	
Antioch,	J. W. Hatch,	13			1	1	48					200	
Hank's Chapel,	T. J. Fowler,	6			2		151	80	10		90	400	1
Pleasant Hill,	W.G. Clements,		1	1		1	56	8			9		1
Oak Level,	J. W. Wellons,	2				1	69	60	5	3	68	500	
Hays' Chapel,	W.G. Clements,	8					47	75	6	40	121	400	1
Mt. Zion,	E. W. Beale,						36	13	5			300	
Damascus,	E. W. Beale,	11					76	75	10	25	110	1000	1
Lebanon,	E. W. Beale,	10					48	85	10	30	125	1000	
Apple's Chapel,	A. Iseley,											300	
Good Hope,	J. W. Wellons,	11					52	15		20	35	500	
Pope's Chapel,	J. W. Wellons,	16	1			1	214	100		82	182	300	
Bethlehem,	A. Iseley,	18				1	128	47		10	57	500	

☞ For names and Post Office address of ministers, see Ministerial Directory.

MINUTES

OF THE

Valley Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

Soliloquy Church, Shenandoah County, October 11th and 12th, 1872.

SOLILOQUY, SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA., }
October 11, 1872. }

The VALLEY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met at this place to-day, and was called to order at 11 o'clock A. M. by Rev. Geo. W. Woods, President of the last session.

In the absence of the Standing Secretary, C. J. Ralston, Assistant Secretary, called the roll of ministers and churches, and the following responded, or appeared subsequently:

ELDER.—G W. Woods.

LICENTIATES.—C. J. Ralston, N. B. Kiracofe.

DELEGATES.—Antioch, D. F. Linaweaver, C. A. Henton. Bethlehem, C. J. Ralston. Dayton, no delegate. Linville, H. C. Beery, J. C. Williams. Plains, Matthias Hupp. Soliloquy, Ephraim Woods, Samuel Rinker.

The President *pro tem* announced a quorum present, and the Conference was led in prayer by Deacon D. F. Linaweaver.

The next business in order being the election of a President, Rev. C. J. Ralston and Rev. G. W. Woods were nominated for that office On the first ballot, Bro. Woods was chosen.

Rev. D. A. Long, the Standing Secretary, having removed from the bounds of the Conference, an election was held to fill the vacant position. Rev. C. J. Ralston and C. A. Henton were put in nomination. The first ballot resulted in the election of Bro. Ralston.

No Assistant Secretary was elected, Bro. Ralston being allowed to chose an assistant when necessary.

The President announced that the Rev. J. T. Whitley was present as a fraternal messenger from the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Ralston, Bro. Whitley was unanimously invited to a seat in the body, with the privileges of a deliberative member. On taking his place with the body, Bro. W. responded in some appropriate remarks.

The Annual Address being next in order, and the Elder chosen to deliver it being absent, Rev. J. T. Whitley was invited to deliver the address to-morrow night.

On motion, Rev. G. W. Woods, D. F. Linaweaver and E. Woods were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

The committee consulted and announced the following appointments: Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach to-night and deliver the Annual address to-morrow night.

The Conference adopted the following schedule for meeting and adjournment each day: Meet at 10 a. m., and adjourn at 11 for services; meet at 1½ p. m., and adjourn at will.

The body then adjourned until after dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met, the President in the chair.

Bro. N. B. Kiracofe, licentiate, arrived and took his seat in the body.

Annual reports were handed in and read from the churches at Antioch, Bethlehem, Dayton, and Linville. Also, a letter from Dr. H. R. Higgins, absent delegate.

On motion, Bros. D. F. Linaweaver, N. B. Kiracofe and H. C. Beery were appointed a committee to examine the records of the local churches.

Rev. J. T. Whitley was invited to fill a vacancy in the Committee on Education.

Reports of standing committees being in order, the Committee on Temperance made the following report:

REPORT.

Your committee on Temperance beg leave to report.

We rejoice to see the energetic efforts that are being put forth to stay the ravages of Alcohol. During the past Conference year, two Councils of the Friends of Temperance have been organized in our boundaries, and are largely sustained by our members—one at Dayton, the other at Linville. We pray that God may bless the labors of those who are thus striving to benefit their race.

We urge upon all our ministers and laymen to give their influence against the manufacture and drinking of ardent spirits.

Respectfully submitted. JESSE BURKHOLDER, *Chm'n.*

The report was discussed in an earnest manner by Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Deacon D. F. Linaweaver, Rev. C. J. Ralston, and Rev. G. W. Woods; after which it was adopted.

The following report was read from the Committee on Sabbath Schools:

REPORT.

This great and noble work is gaining ground. Churches which thought it out of place a few years ago to foster Sunday Schools, are now organizing and using this most efficient means of grace. Now almost universally among us the School is recognized as a great help to the church. We feel much encouraged at the prosperity of this cause in our midst.

All of our churches have Sunday Schools except Bethlehem.

Respectfully submitted. D F. LINAWEAVER, *Chm'n.*

After a discussion of the report by the fraternal messenger from Eastern Virginia, it was adopted.

Conference then adjourned, with prayer by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

October 12, 1872.

The President called the body to order, and religious services were conducted by Rev. C. J. Ralston.

Delegate Matthias Hupp, from Plains church, arrived and took his seat.

The minutes of yesterday's session, were read, corrected and adopted.

Bro. J. C. Williams was substituted for Bro. H. C. Beery in the Committee on Church Records.

On motion, the minister's reports were called for and read.

The Committee on Education presented their report as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education are deeply impressed with the necessity of an educated ministry to the success of our cause; and with the great desirableness of literary knowledge to the masses of the people of our various communities.

We very much desire to see a High School established within the boundaries of our Conference, where young men can prepare for the ministry and our youth can be instructed in a literary education. But at this time we see no opening for the establishment of such an Institution in our own bounds, and, therefore, recommend most heartily the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, in the Eastern Virginia Conference, and the Graham High School, in the North Carolina Conference. While we are sorry to part with any of our young men, we feel glad to announce that Bro. C. J. Ralston is about to spend a season at the former institution.

We have received an application for licensure from Bro. J. C. Williams. We have examined Bro. W., and find him in several respects below the standard of training required in our government. Not wishing to assume the responsibility of recommending him for licensure, we suggest that he be permitted to preach a trial sermon, and that Conference decide whether to license him or not.

Bro. N. B. Kiracofe comes recommended for ordination by the church at Linville. He comes very near to our standard, though not up to it in every respect. We recommend that he be ordained an Elder at the present session of this body.

Bro. C. J. Ralston comes recommendod by the Churches at Antioch and Dayton for ordination. He has not reached the required standard of education, and, in consideration of the fact that he is about to attend a High School in another Conference, we suggest that his ordination be postponed for the present.

G. W. WOODS. *Chm'n.*

On motion, it was decided to take up the report by paragraphs.

Bro. H. C. Beery moved that the first section be adopted. Carried.

Bro. Linaweaver moved the adoption of the second paragraph, relating to the trial sermon of Bro. Williams; the motion was carried, and 2 o'clock appointed as the time for the sermon.

On motion, the third section was adopted, and Revs. J. T. Whitley and G. W. Woods were elected the ordaining presbytery, the ordination ceremony to take place on Sunday morning.

The fourth section, relating to Bro. Ralston, was adopted.

The subject of selecting a place at which to hold the next annual session of the Conference being called up, Linville and Dayton were put in nomination. After discussing the claims of each, the Conference decided to meet next year at Linville, four miles from Harrisonburg.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Woods, the time of meeting was changed from Friday to Thursday before the second Sunday in October annually.

Bro. D. F. Linaweaver offered the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The salaries of ministers of the Gospel ought to be sufficient for their support; and

WHEREAS, In this Conference the subject has received comparatively little attention: Therefore—

1. *Resolved*, That the laborer is worthy of his hire.

2. *Resolved*, That, as a Conference, we urge the churches in our bounds to pay their pastors' salaries promptly, and in sufficient amounts to furnish them a comfortable support.

The resolutions elicited earnest remarks from Rev. J. T. Whitley and D. F. Linaweaver.

Pending the discussion, the body took a recess for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Conference met and was led in prayer by Bro. George Stillwell.

The resolutions concerning ministers' salaries were taken up, pithily discussed and adopted.

A recess was then taken, and Bro. J. C. Williams delivered a trial sermon from Jeremiah II: 26, "Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way."

After the sermon, a vote was taken, and the body decided to postpone the licensure of Bro. Williams for the present.

Rev. J. T. Whitley requested the Conference to appoint fraternal messengers to sister bodies.

Revs. N. B. Kiracofe, G. W. Woods and C. J. Ralston were appointed to the Eastern Virginia and North Carolina Conferences.

A committee, consisting of one member from each church, was appointed to raise funds to pay the expenses of the fraternal messengers.

On motion, the blank form of report from the local churches, adopted in the Eastern Virginia and North Carolina Conferences, was adopted for the use of churches connected with this body.

The Conference then adjourned to meet again to-night after the public service.

NIGHT SESSION.

A large congregation assembled to hear the annual address, which was delivered by Rev. J. T. Whitley. The address was a review of the successes of the Conference during the past year, and a discussion of the two questions: "What have we to do during next year?" "How can we do it?"

The President called the house to order.

Rev. N. B. Kiracofe was elected to preach the annual sermon next year.

The report on Church Records was read:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Church Records desire to report that they have examined the Books of Record that have been handed in, and find them correctly kept.

D. F. LINAWEAVER, *Chm'n.*

On motion, the report was adopted.

The Conference then by vote decided to have the proceedings of this session published in the *Christian Annual,* delegates from each church becoming individually responsible for the payment of costs.

The following Standing Committees were announced for the ensuing year:

Education—Revs. G. W. Woods and N. B. Kiracofe.

Home Missions—D. F. Linaweaver, Ephraim Woods, J. C. Williams, Dr. H. R. Higgins.

Temperance—Rev. C. J. Ralston, Jesse Burkholder, C. A. Henton, H. C. Beery.

Sunday Schools—David Ralston, Sr., George Stillwell, Sam'l Rinker, M. Hupp.

Executive Committee—N. B. Kiracofe, G. W. Woods.

The Committee on Home Missions presented the following

REPORT:

Bros. Woods, Harding and Ralston have been laboring faithfully in the missionary work

Bro. Woods reports one church organized, eight conversions, and the missionary field very inviting.

Bro Ralston says the Lord has blessed his labors. He preached and held a protracted meeting at a place known as "the Baptist Church," and seven persons were converted. He has preached in Page county and elsewhere, and thinks our principles can be widely disseminated by extra exertion.

Bro. Harding is living in Highland county, Va., and Bro. Calhoun in Missouri. Very little has been heard from them.

We suggest that Conference appoint and sustain one or more home missionaries, if possible.

C. J. RALSTON, *Chm'n.*

The report was adopted.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due and are hereby tendered to Rev. J. T. Whitley, of the Eastern Virginia Conference, for the efficient services rendered to this Conference in the transaction of its business during the present session.

A vote of thanks was also unanimously tendered to the kind people about Soliloquy for their hospitality.

The new church organized by Rev. G. W. Woods, at Valley School House, applied for membership, and was unanimously received into the body.

The Committee on Religious exercises announced a Sunday School Mass Meeting to be held on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, to be addressed by Rev. C. J. Ralston and D. F. Linaweaver; at 10½ o'clock, ordination of Bro. Kiracofe; at 11, sermon by Rev. J. T. Whitley; at 2 p. m., sermon by Rev. N. B. Kiracofe; at 7 p. m., sermon by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

On motion, the Conference then adjourned to meet at Linville, Rockingham caunty, Va., on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1873, at 10 o'clock a. m.

G. W. WOODS, *President.*

C. J. RALSTON, *Secretary.*

NOTE.—The services of the Sabbath were well attended and profitable. Bro. N. B. Kiracofe was solemnly ordained an Elder, and Bro. M. Hupp a deacon of the church at Plains. Withal, the present session of the Conference was one of the best held in many years.

SECRETARY.

8th

MINUTES

OF THE

DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

Union Grove, Randolph County, N. C., October 4, 5 and 7, 1872.

UNION GROVE, RANDOLPH COUNTY, N. C., }
Friday, October 4, 1872. }

The DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met to-day in its eighth annual session.

Rev. A. S. Nelson, the former President, called the Conference to order. Singing by the congregation and prayer by Rev. A. S. Nelson.

The roll of ministers and delegates was called, and the following answered to their names:

ELDERS—A. S. Nelson, W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, and W. W. Lawrence. Absent: Joseph Albright, W. M. Craven, and M. L. Hurley.

LICENTIATES—Wm. Dicken, D. B. McLeod, J. A. Scott, and Wm. Brady. Absent: H. A. Albright and S. L. Craven.

DELEGATES—Parks' Cross Roads, Jas. Stout, C. W. Parks, and Peter Humble. Shiloh, E. A. Moffitt, John Gorley, W. T. Fox, and Jas. G. Holt. Pleasant Grove, S. L. Moffitt, Jas. Brady, and C. H. Welch. Pleasant Ridge, Reuben Cox, Andrew Yow, Jos. G. Allen, and Jno. W. Craven. Shady Grove, E. C. Martin and David McLeod. Oldham's Grove, Thomas Riddle. Union Grove, Adam Brown, James Byrd, and Ira Brown. Brown's Chapel, Wm. Brewer and Joseph Craven. Cool Spring, John Dunlap. New Providence, J. P. Cole.

A quorum being present, Conference proceeded to business.

A ballot for President being the first business in order, on motion, the vote was taken by ballot, which resulted as follows: for President, Wm. R. Brown; for Vice President, A. S. Nelson.

On motion, E. A. Moffitt was unanimously elected Assistant Secretary.

Rev. Alfred Apple, a fraternal messenger from the North Carolina Conference, being present, was, on motion, invited to a seat with us; also, Rev. J. W. Hatch and Bro. M. Merchison

were, on motion, invited to seats as honorary members. These brethren expressed their gratification at being present in a few appropriate remarks.

Conference then adjourned until 2½ o'clock p. m.

During the recess, Rev. A. S. Nelson delivered the annual sermon from John XII: 23. The discourse was exceedingly eloquent in expression, and was listened to with deep interest by the congregation.

2 o'clock P. M.

The President in the chair.

Revs. W. M. Craven and M. L. Hurley appeared and took their seats.

On motion, Rev. W. S. Long, fraternal messenger from the North Carolina Conference, was invited to a seat in Conference, and responded in a few appropriate remarks.

A petition was read from the church at New Centre, asking admission into our body, which, on motion, was unanimously granted.

Bro. Isaac Lawrence, a delegate from that church, came forward and took his seat as a member of Conference.

On motion, vacancies in the different committees were filled.

Bro. James Bracy was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Committee on Temperance, and on Sabbath Schools J. J. Allen, S. L. Moffitt, Jas. G. Holt and C. W. Parks were appointed.

On motion, the letters from the different churches were called for and read.

On motion, the Chair appointed a special committee of three on statistics—Rev. W. M. Craven and Bros. D. K. McLeod and Andrew Yow.

Conference then adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9½ o'clock. Prayer by Rev. A. Apple.

Saturday Morning, October 5th, 1873.

Conference met according to adjournment. Singing by the conpregation and prayer by Rev. J. W. Hatch.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Bro. H. A. Albright appeared and took his seat.

The following committees were appointed:

On Ordination—J. S. Lawrence, A. S. Nelson and W. W. Lawrence.

On Memoirs—H. A. Albright, Jas. Stout and Peter Humble.

On Ministerial Supply—C. H. Welch, B. W. Parks, Reuben Cox, Jas. Bird, E. C. Martin, John Dunlap, Joseph Craven, Isaac Lawrence, J. P. Cole, Thos. Riddle and Jas. G. Holt.

A communication was received from Bro. S. L. Craven, requesting his name to be dropped from our Conference, and, on motion, the request was complied with.

On motion, Bro. J. A. Scott was appointed to deliver the next annual address.

On motion, Conference agreed to hold its next annual session with the church at Parks' Cross Roads, Randolph county, N. C., on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1873.

Conference then adjourned to 12½ o'clock p. m.

12½ o'clock P. M.

Conference re-assembled, the President in the chair.

Rev. W. R. Brown made a verbal report of his labors during the past year as our Itinerant, which was very encouraging.

The Conference Committee made the following report:

REPORT.

The Conference Committee beg leave to report, that on Saturday before the first Sunday in April last, we were called together at Shiloh church, Randolph county, to investigate charges preferred against Rev. Thos. G Craven by Catharine Vuncannon. The said Rev. T. G. Craven, having been duly notified of the time and place, did then and there appear. Your committee then proceeded to investigate the said charges, preferred by the above-named lady, and after a careful investigation of all facts connected with the case, found Rev. T. G. Craven guilty of all the charges preferred against him. We then and there demanded of him his license, which he refused to surrender. We therefore recommend that he be disowned as a member of this Conference, and that his name be dropped from the roll of ministers in this body.

A. S. NELSON, *Chm'n.*

After the above report, a communication was received from Mr. T. G. Craven asking an appeal, which, on motion, was referred to a committee of all the Elders of Conference, and T. G. Craven notified to appear before them.

The Committee on Temperance made the following report:

REPORT.

We, the Standing Committee on Temperance, are fully convinced of the delicate position we occupy. We know that all men are not agreed upon this subject. Having examined this subject to some extent, we admonish our brethren everywhere not to engage in the manufacture and traffic of ardent spirits. We recommend our Chris-

tian brethren to abstain from the use of all that will intoxicate, believing it to be one of the greatest evils.

We therefore admonish our ministers, deacons and members, as well as the superintendents and teachers of Sabbath Schools, to teach and practice temperance in all things, praying that by the grace of God, the rising generation may be more united and temperate than at present.

Respectfully submitted. D. B. McLEOD, *Chm'n.*

The report was received, and after considerable discussion by Revs. A. S. Nelson, J S. Lawrence, Wm. M. Craven, W. S. Long, and Bro. H. A. Albright, was adopted.

The Committee on Memoirs made a report, which was, after some discussion, adopted. [The report having been mislaid by the Secretary, does not appear in these proceedings.]

On motion, Rev. W. S. Long was requested to preach the funeral of our beloved deceased brother, Andrew Craven.

The Committee on Education made the following report:

REPORT.

The Educational Committee respectfully report, that inasmuch as we have no denominational school at present within our bounds, we would recommend persons having children to educate, to the favorable consideration of the High School in Graham, conducted by Bros. Long, as being in every respect adapted to our wants.

W. R. BROWN, *Chm'n.*

The report was received, and after a few remarks and explanations, made by Revs. W. S. Long and M. L. Hurley, was adopted.

The President appointed W. W. Lawrence, Adam Brown and Isaac Lawrence a Committee on Religious Exercises.

Conference then adjourned to meet Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. W. S. Long.

MONDAY MORNING, October 7th, 1872.

Conference met according to adjournment, the President in the chair. Religious exercises by Rev. Wm. Brady.

The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

On motion of Rev. R. S. Nelson, the vote on the time of holding the next annual Conference, was reconsidered.

J. A. Scott presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the next annual session of this Conference convene on Thursday before the first Sunday in October, 1873, at 12 o'clock M., at Parks' Cross Roads, Randolph county, N. C.

On motion, Rev. A. S. Nelson was requested to furnish the Secretary with a copy of his address.

On motion, the ministers were requested to submit a report of their labors.

Revs. W. R. Brown and W. W. Lawrence, and Bro. J. A. Scott were elected fraternal messengers to the North Carolina and Virginia Conference.

The Chair appointed the hour of 2 o'clock to raise money for the purpose of having the minutes printed.

Conference then adjourned to meet at 1½ o'clock p. m.

1½ o'clock P. M.

Conference reassembled, the President in the chair.

On motion of Rev. E. A. Moffitt, it was decided to have the minutes of Conference published in the *Christian Annual.*

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following report:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report, that after due inquiry we find that there have been schools organized at almost all the churches in the Conference, and at some points they have been successfully conducted throughout the entire year. Your committee are glad to be able to state that our people are becoming more interested than they have been in any time past, and the interest is still increasing.

This is a field in which not only the preacher, but also the humblest follower of Christ may perform some noble part in the great work of dispensing the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It would, perhaps, be impossible for us in our limited space, to enumerate the vast amount of good that has been accomplished by this means during the past year; but still we think that more could have been done, if the subject had been fully presented in its true light—therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend the ministers and members of our churches to organize schools at all suitable points, and give them their earnest co-operation.

J. A. SCOTT, *Chm'n.*

The report was received, and after some soul-stirring remarks on the subject by Rev. A. S. Nelson, Bro. J. A. Scott and Mr. B. F. Coffin, was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Ordination reported as follows:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Ordination, beg leave to report that we have examined Bro. Peter Humble, and have admitted him into the Biblical Class, and would recommend the church to which he belongs to license him to exercise his gift as the Good Spirit may direct.

Respectfully submitted. JOHN S. LAWRENCE, *Chm'n.*

The report was received and adopted.

The Committee on Supplies presented the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Ministerial Supplies, beg leave to make the following report:

Your committee, after consulting together, think it best for our cause to send out two men as itinerants for the next year, and for that purpose have chosen Elders W. R. Brown and J. S. Lawrence, dividing their field as follows: For the Deep River Circuit, Rev. W. R. Brown, with the following churches: Pleasant Ridge, Parks' Cross Roads, Shiloh, Pleasant Grove, Salem and Oldham's Grove. For the Bear Creek Circuit: Rev. J. S. Lawrence, with the following churches: Union Grove, New Centre, Shady Grove, Cool Spring, Brown's Chapel and New Providence. We also request that they look after every point within their reach that will be an advantage to our cause in the future.

We have examined the request sent us from the people in the neighborhood of Flint Hill, and suggest that Bros. W. M. Craven and Wm. Dicken visit that section and use their influence to unite the people with regard to a site for their church.

As to the local ministers, we leave them unassigned, and each church can make its own selection.

Respectfully submitted. C. H. WELCH, *Chm'n.*

The Committee of Elders made the following report relative to Mr. T. G. Craven's appeal, which was received and unanimously adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee of Elders, to whom was referred Mr. T. G. Craven's appeal, beg leave to report, that after examining the subject before them, and he failing to appear, your committee recommend Conference to sustain the action of the Conference Committee. We further recommend your body to appoint a committee to demand his credentials.

Respectfully submitted. A. S. NELSON, *Chm'n.*

The Chair appointed the following committee to demand his credentials: Revs. W. W. Lawrence, J. S. Lawrence and A. S. Nelson.

The Committee on Education was instructed to act also as a committee on Ordination.

The President appointed the following Standing Committees:

On Education—Revs. A. S. Nelson, J. S. Lawrence and W. W. Lawrence.

On Temperance—H. A. Albright, D. B. McLeod and Wm. Brady.

On Sabbath Schools—J. A. Scott, Jas. Stout and Wm. Dicken.

On motion, the Conference Committee was elected by ballot, and resulted as follows: Revs. W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence and A. S. Nelson, and Bros. Wm. Brown, Sr., and O. Vestal.

The Committee on Statistics made their report, which will be found on the next page.

Bro. J. A. Scott resigned his office as Standing Secretary.

Bro. E. A. Moffitt was put in nomination for Standing Secretary, but at his request the nomination was withdrawn.

Bro. H. A. Albright was then nominated and elected Standing Secretary.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at Parks' Cross Roads, Randolph county, N. C., on Thursday before the first Sunday in October, 1873, at 12 o'clock M. Religious exercises by J. S. Lawrence.

W. R. BROWN, *President.*

J. A. SCOTT, *Secretary.*
E. A. MOFFITT, *Ass't Sec'y.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Received.	Removed.	Died.	Expelled.	No. Communicants.
Parks' Cross Roads	5		1	1	65
Shiloh	31		1	1	102
Pleasant Grove	6		1	1	174
Pleasant Ridge	1			1	75
Shady Grove					46
Oldham's Grove					17
Union Grove	8	4		1	67
Brown's Chapel	7				28
Salem					11
Cool Springs	1				16
New Providence	17				43
New Centre					16
Christian Union		8			38
Total	76	12	3	5	698

WM. M. CRAVEN, *Chm'n.*

REMARKS.—The ministers have been actively engaged during the past year, and good success has attended their labors. The Conference was well attended, and was most harmonious. The brethren all seemed to be of one mind and one spirit.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

MINUTES

OF THE

Georgia and Alabama Christian Conference.

HELD AT

Providence Church, Red Hill, Stuart Co., Ga., Oct. 5, 6 and 7, 1872.

PROVIDENCE, STUART COUNTY, GA., }
October 5, 1872. }

The GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CONFERENCE met, pursuant to adjournment, at this place to-day, and was called to order by Rev. Jubilee Smith, President of the last session.

The roll of ministers was called and the following responded:

ELDERS—Jubilee Smith and J. D. Elder.

LICENTIATES—W. R. Leger and J. M. Wharton.

Churches, through their delegates: Providence—G. W. Rodgers, A. H. Harbuck. Christian Union—Rev. Jubilee Smith. New Hope—Jasper Sanders. Pleasant Grove—D. Childers and J. T. Willingham. Liberty—Not represented.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Bro. W. R. Leger.

Rev. Jubilee Smith was unanimously re-elected President, and Rev. J. D. Elder Secretary.

On motion, Rev. J. D. Elder was elected to deliver the annual sermon at the next session.

The Chair then appointed the following committees:

On Examination of Church Letters—J. D. Elder, W. R. Leger, J. M. Wharton.

On Standing of the Ministry—D. Childers, J. M. Wharton.

On Standing of the Churches—J. T. Willingham, A. H. Harbuck.

On Sabbath Schools—Jasper Sanders, W. R. Leger.

On Periodicals—J. D. Elder, J. M. Wharton.

On Temperance—W. R. Leger, Jasper Sanders.

On Education—G. W. Rodgers, J. T. Willingham.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by Rev. J. D. Elder.

MONDAY MORNING, October 7th, 1872.

Conference met according to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. Jubilee Smith.

On motion, the several committees were requested to hand in their reports.

The Committee on Examination of Church Letters made the following report:

REPORT.

We, your commiteee, report that we have carefully examined the several church letters, and we find that they are faithfully trying to conform to the requirements of our church government. Some of the churches have revised their church books, and from the tone of the letters they seem to be in a flourishing condition.

D. CHILDERS, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on the Standing of the Ministry reported as follows:

REPORT.

We, your committee, have, through the delegates, investigated the standing of the ministers of this Conference, and find them all in good standing. Our ministers seem to be in the full discharge of their duties, with the exception of attending our annual Conferences, which some of them neglect. We would recommend that this body take some steps to arouse our ministers to the importance of attending Conference and reporting the result of their labors promptly, if they desire to continue in fellowship with us. We would also recommend that the united prayers of the churches composing this Conference be offered up in behalf of our cause. The field is white unto the harvest and the laborers are few. D. CHILDERS, *Chm'n.*

The report called forth remarks from Revs. Jubilee Smith and J. D. Elder and Bro. W. R. Leger, after which it was adopted.

The Committee on the Standing of the Churches offered the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Through the various delegates, we have investigated the standing of the churches, and find them in a healthy condition, holding their meetings regularly, and attending punctually to the ordinances required by our government. Liberty was not represented, either by letter or delegate; but we learn from Rev. J. D. Elder they are holding their meetings regularly, and have Rev. J. M. Hurst preaching for them. The new church in the Valley is without a pastor.

Respectfully submitted A. H. HARBUCK, *Chm'n.*

Conference then adjourned to 3 o'clock p. m. Prayer by J. M. Wharton.

[During the recess a most excellent sermon was delivered by Rev. Jubilee Smith.]

3 o'clock P. M.

Conference met. Prayer by the President.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following report:

REPORT.

We earnestly recommend that each church in this Conference endeavor to establish a Sabbath School. By this means great good can be accomplished for our cause. We are pleased to state that Rev. J. D. Elder has succeeded in establishing Sunday Schools in all the churches of his charge, which have been kept up throughout the entire year.

Respectfully submitted. W. R. LEGER, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on Periodicals made the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Periodicals are pleased to report that our denominational organ, the Christian Sun, fully meets our wants, and we heartily endorse it and its editor, Rev. W. B. Wellons. [The remainder of the report is omitted, for reasons which will be explained to the committee.]

J. M. WHARTON, *Chm'n.*

The report was discussed at length by the President, Rev. J. D. Elder and Bro. Jonathan Bridges, and adopted.

The Committee on Temperance presented the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report, that the growing evil of intemperance admonishes us as professing Christians to do all in our power to stop its ravages No evil has ever been so universally destructive to the human race; none which so counteracts the influences of the gospel, and has been so destructive to piety, and so sternly opposed to the spread of vital godliness. We must take the evil in the very bud, and labor in the spirit of Christ-like love, with gentleness, and with vigilant, persevering effort, and God will give success.

WM. R. LEGER, *Chm'n.*

The Committee on Education offered the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

We would recommend to the favorable consideration of the Christians composing this Conference the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, at Suffolk, Va., and the Graham High School, at Graham, N. C. They are our denominational schools, and should be patronized by us whenever practicable. Other denominations have their own schools, and we must keep pace with the times if we wish to prosper.

J. T. WILLINGHAM, *Chm'n.*

Conference then adjourned for thirty minutes.

Conference re-assembled. Prayer by Rev. J. D. Elder.

The Standing Committee on Ordination made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee ask leave to report, that we have carefully examined Bros. J. M. Wharton and W. R. Leger, as required by the government of our Church. Their examination was satisfactory and we recommend them for ordination.

J. SMITH, *Chm'n.*

The presbytery then proceeded to ordain the candidates, who were solemnly set apart to the office of Elders in the Church.

On motion, it was decided to publish the proceedings of this Conference in the *Christian Annual.*

On motion, it was decided to hold the next annual Conference with New Hope church, Chambers county, Ala., on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1873.

Conference then adjourned. Prayer by the President.

JUBILEE SMITH, *President.*

J. D. ELDER, *Secretary.*

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

Rev. Jubilee Smith preached for Providence and Christian Union. W. R. Leger preached some fifteen or twenty sermons, and thinks the Lord has blessed his labors, and feels more determined than ever to enter fully into the preaching of the Word. J. D. Elder has, during the Conference year, preached 95 sermons and exhortations, baptized 6 converts, married 9 couples, travelled 661 miles, and feels confident that the blessing of God has attended his ministry. J. M. Wharton has no report made out. Revs. M. J. Sorrell, C. W. Gregg, J. M. Hurst and W. J. Manning have neither reported themselves nor their labors.

REMARKS.—The annual sermon was delivered by Rev. J. D. Elder, at 11 o'clock A. M. Sunday, and was listened to with much interest.

The ministers seem to be actively engaged in preaching the Word. There have been but few deaths among us during the past year. Providence church has sustained a heavy loss in the death of W. K. Glenn, who was truly a good man.

The congregations were not large during Conference, but the session was a most harmonious one. The friends at Providence have endeared themselves to us by their kindness and hospitality.

SECRETARY.

NORTH CAROLINA COLORED CONFERENCE.

The session of this Conference was held at Graham, N. C., in November last.

Revs. E. W. Beale and W. S. Long, of the North Carolina Conference, who had been appointed to visit that body, were present, gave counsel and advice, and were kindly received.

Several new churches were received into the body, several ministers were licensed and ordained, and the reports from pastors and churches showed much prosperity during the past year.

A proposition for union coming from a colored Conference, connected with the Disciples, in the Eastern counties of the State, elicited much discussion.

This body is growing in numbers and increasing in usefulness, and considerable talent is being developed among the ministry.

The next session will be held in the eastern part of the State.

VIRGINIA.

The colored ministers and churches in Eastern Virginia are now discussing the propriety of organizing a Conference. Justin Copeland, Lewis Darden and Talitha Briggs are the most prominent preachers. They have churches in Nansemond, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Southampton and Sussex counties. During the present year a Conference will probably be organized.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Sunday School Convention.

PROVIDENCE, NORFOLK COUNTY, VA., }
Tuesday, May 21, 1872. }

The Sunday School Convention of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference met at this place to-day, at 11 o'clock a. m., and was called to order by the President.

The following officers were present: Rev. W. B. Wellons, President; Rev. R. H. Holland, Vice-President; Rev. C. A. Apple, Secretary; Thos. J. Kilby, Esq., Treasurer.

The Convention was opened with prayer by Rev. C. A. Apple.

The names of ministers and delegates were then enrolled, with the following result:

MINISTERS—W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning, R. H. Holland, J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple.

SUPERINTENDENTS AND DELEGATES.—*Suffolk*—D. B. Dunbar (Supt.) Jas. R. Baker, Thos. H. Hines, Joseph Boothe, J. P. Barrett, J. T. Nurney. *Antioch*—B. F. Roberts (Supt.) John M. Gay, F. C. Roberts, R. J. Eley, E. L. Eley, J. C. Thomas, S. J. Carr, W. G. Niblett. *Berea*—Jas. A. Phelps. *Providence*—Jos. B. Dowdy (Supt.) Samuel Etheredge, Jr., Curtis Ives. *Holy Neck*—Wm. W. Darden. *Hebron*—Jethro Rayford (Supt.) *Mt. Carmel*—Thos. M. Murray, B. T. Carr, Virgil E. White, Jas. E. T. Joyner, John Oney, Harrison H. Butler. *Bethlehem*—R. Copeland (Supt.) Wm. Eley, Thos. Parker, J. R. Archer. *Cypress Chapel*—Walter H Eley (Supt.) Adrian Riddick, Wm. T. Jones, Leroy E. Saunders. *Walnut Grove*—George W. Whitehead. *Liberty Spring*—A. J. Raby (Supt.) J. T. Hamilton, R. T. Rawls. *Ferry Point*—B. T. Tatem. *Johnson's Grove*—Not represented. *Liberty*—Not represented. *Union*—J. T. Kitchen. *Spring Hill*—Not represented. *Barrett's*—Not represented. *Damascus*—Not represented. *Elm Grove*—Not represented.

Written reports were received from all the above schools, except Union, Liberty, Barrett's, and Elm Grove.

On motion, the new schools at Cherry Grove, Ivor, Sunnyside, Berea, (Norfolk county,) and Oakland, were received as constituent members of the Convention.

The delegates from Berea, (Norfolk county,) Bros. W. W. Stallings and W. P. Bland, were admitted to seats in the Convention.

Cherry Grove—J. P. Bradshaw (Supt.) Willis Spivey.

The others were not represented.

The Convention then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing twelve months. Rev. W. B. Wellons was chosen President and Rev. J. N. Manning Vice-President.

The following were elected with the President and Standing Secretary, as additional members of the Executive Council: R. Copeland, John C. Thomas, Jethro Rayford.

On motion, the Convention determined to meet each day at 9 a. m., take a recess at 1 p. m., meet again at 2½ p. m., and adjourn at will.

On motion, the Chair was requested to appoint a committee of three on Finance, to audit the Treasurer's report, and to make such recommendations as may seem best on this subject.

The Chair appointed Wm. Eley, A. J. Raby and J. T. Nurney the above committee.

The hour for recess having arrived, the Convention took a recess of an hour and a half.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met.

The President announced that according to previous arrangement made by the Executive Council, the first matter to be discussed was: "The true aim of the Sunday School, and the best means of accomplishing that aim."

Rev. C. A. Apple, who had been selected for that purpose, then read an essay prepared by him for the occasion.

Rev. W. B. Wellons followed with some remarks, and the discussion was continued by Rev. J. T. Whitley and Rev. J. N. Manning.

The discussion on this subject was then closed.

Rev. J. N. Manning introduced two little girls from the school at Ferry Point, who entertained the Convention with recitations.

The President then announced as the next subject for discussion: "The means to be employed for securing efficient officers and teachers."

Rev. R. H. Holland, according to previous appointment, opened the discussion with a carefully prepared and most interesting essay.

Rev. J. T. Whitley addressed the Convention upon the subject.

After singing by the choir, and prayer by the President, the Convention adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 22, 1872.

The Convention met. Reading the Scriptures by the President, singing by the congregation, and prayer by Rev. R. H. Holland.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. W. B. Wellons then proceeded to discuss the question assigned to him: "The most effectual way of teaching Bible truth, and the literature best suited to that purpose."

Rev. J. T. Whitley spoke and was followed by Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. R. H. Holland and Rev. J. N. Manning.

The President then announced as the next subject for discussion: "The method of conducting adult classes."

Rev. J. N. Manning, according to appointment, opened the discussion with a brief essay.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, Bro. R. Copeland, Rev. C. A. Apple and Rev. W. B. Wellons then addressed the Convention.

The President then called upon Superintendents and delegates to represent the condition of their schools.

The responses from the Superintendents were of a very encouraging nature.

After a hymn by the choir, the Convention took a recess for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Convention assembled.

The Treasurer presented his report, which was received.

The Committee on Finance presented the following report, which was received, and after some explanations, adopted:

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, the Committee on Finance, beg leave to report that we have examined into the condition of the finances of the Convention, and find that after paying expenses of the same, a surplus remains on hand of $53.25; and inasmuch as the receipts exceed the expenses to that extent, we ask the Conventiou to reduce the assessment placed upon each member of the School to one cent per annum.

WM. ELEY,
J. T. NURNEY,
A. J. RABY.

The President announced, as the next subject for discussion, "Sunday School Music."

Rev. J. T. Whitley then proceeded to deliver an essay carefully prepared by him for the occasion.

Revs. W. B. Wellons and C. A. Apple discussed the subject.

The subject of the time and place of next meeting was then taken up.

The time for the next session was fixed at Tuesday after the third Sunday in May, 1873, and Suffolk was selected as the place.

On motion of T. J. Kilby, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the brethren and friends at Providence for their hospitality. Also, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the Norfolk & Petersburg Railroad Company for allowing the members of the Convention to pass over the road for half fare.

Remarks were made by the President and Bros. Whitley, Manning, Copeland, Hines, E. L. Eley, Kilby, Holland, and Gay.

On motion, the Convention ordered that the proceedings be published, by permission of the editor, in the CHRISTIAN SUN and also in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL for 1872.

The Secretary was requested to have published in the CHRISTIAN SUN the several essays read before the Convention.

After a few closing remarks by the President, the Convention adjourned to meet at Suffolk, Va., on Tuesday after the third Sunday in May, 1873.

Singing by the choir, prayer by the President, and benediction by Rev. J. N. Manning.

W. B. WELLONS, *President.*

C. A. APPLE, *Secretary.*

Ministerial Directory.

EASTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

Ministers.	*P. O. Address*
S. S. Barrett	Ferry Point, Va.
Robert Rawls	Ivor, Va.
W. B. Wellons	Suffolk, Va.
M. B. Barrett	Ivor, Va.
Robt. H. Holland	Carrsville, Va.
John N. Manning	Norfolk, Va.
Thomas W. Joyner	Berlin, Va.
C. A. Apple	Somerton, Va.
R. H. Costen	Norfolk, Va.
J. T. Whitley	Windsor, Va.
Hugh S. Dunn	Columbus, Ohio.
P. S. P. Corbin	Houma, La.
E. W. Beale	Chuckatuck, Va.

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

Thomas J. Fowler	Mebaneville, N. C.
Alfred Iseley	Company Shops, N. C.
Solomon Apple	Milton, N. C.
Alfred Apple	Red Bank, Va.
H. B. Hayes	Raleigh, N. C.
A. G. Anderson	Anderson's Store, N. C.
D. T. Deanes	Aspen Grove, N. C.
Chartier Allen	Oxford, N. C.
J. W. Wellons	Franklinton, N. C.
J. N. Farrell	Lockville, N. C
William H. Franks	Raleigh, N. C.
William S. Long	Graham, N. C.
C. A. Boon	Pittsborough, N. C.
William T. Walker	Monticello, N. C.
P. W. Allen	Oxford, N. C.
John W. Hatch	Pittsborough, N. C.
R. Claiborne Tuck	Great Bridge, Va.
R. G. Tinnen	Cedar Grove, N. C.
Wm. G. Clements	Morrisville, N. C.
Thomas Truitt	Company Shops, N. C.
D. A. Long	Graham, N. C.
W. W. Staley	Trinity College, N. C.
S. I. Ellis	Graham, N. C.
A. F. Iseley	Company Shops, N. C.
Peter T. Klapp	Graham, N. C.
J. W. Holt	Company Shops, N. C.
R. W. Pinnix	Anderson's Store, N. C.

VALLEY VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

G. W. Woods	New Market, Va.
N. B. Kiracofe	Dale Enterprise, Va.
C. J. Ralston	Suffolk, Va.
James A. Harding	—— ——
Jacob M. Calhoun	—— ——

DEEP RIVER VALLEY CONFERENCE.

William R. Brown	Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Joseph Albright	" "
John S. Lawrence	" "
W. W. Lawrence	" "
John A. Scott	" "
William M. Craven	" "
M. L. Hurley	McCray's Store, N. C.
A. S. Nelson	Carter's Mills, N. C.
Daniel McLeod	Auman's Hill, N. C.
William Brady	" "
J. B. Ausley	Jonesborough, N. C.

GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

Jubilee Smith	Preston, Ga.
John D. Elder	Milltown, Ala.
C. W. Gregg	Wedowee, Ala.
M. J. Sorrell	Chewlafinne, Ala.
W. R. Leger	Columbus, Ga.
J. M. Wharton	Richland, Ga.
W. J. Manning	Milltown, Ala.
G. M. Hurst	Wedowee, Ala.

Position on Christian Union.

The following preamble and resolutions adopted by the General Convention of the Christian Church at its last session, held in May, 1870, at Suffolk, Va., gives the position occupied by the CHRISTIANS on the question of Christian union:

Whereas, The members of the General Convintion of the Christian Church are profoundly impressed with the belief that harmony in the Church of Christ is essentially necessary to the true interests of our holy religion: Therefore—

1. *Resolved*, That we appeal to all true christians of every denomination, to aid us in the great work of promoting that "unity of spirit in the bond of peace" which should prevail among the members of the body of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the Head.

2. *Resolved*, That while we freely concede the inalienable right of every man to exercise private judgment and liberty of conscience in matters of religion, yet we recognize the necessity which demands that certain fundamental doctrines should be believed and acknowledged by every one seeking admission into the visible church.

3. *Resolved*, That, in our opinion, there is a sufficient community of feeling and belief among evangelical denominations to form a basis of union, without binding the consciences of men in those matters which are but of secondary importance and are not essential to the constitution of the church instituted by our Lord and established through the instrumentality of his apostles and ministers.

4. *Resolved*, That we call upon every true friend of our holy faith, everywhere, to come out openly in favor of Evangelical Christian Union—the only safeguard of Protestant Christianity, and the only means of promoting that spiritnal unanimity and perfect peace which are the crowning glory of the Gospel.

PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIANS.

They extend the hand of Christian fellowship and brotherly love to all who have been born of the Spirit, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and work righteousness, welcoming all such to the Lord's table when spread by them. While immersion is the mode of baptism mostly practiced by them, yet sprinkling and pouring is recognized, and, to some extent, practiced by them. Their practice is to receive to their fellowship and church membership, all who give evidence of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and of a regenerated state, and then leave all to satisfy their own conscience in reference to the mode of baptism. Ministers and lay members are alike free to exercise their own liberty of conscience on this and all other subjects not considered fundamental or essential to regeneration and the salvation of the soul. Their pulpits are open to the ministers of all Evangelical denominations, and the ministers of the Christian Church are always ready to join with other ministers in christian labors and in doing good.

They have taken the world for their field of labor, and are seeking to build up their cause, not upon the ruins of other organizations, but to bring together in cooperation the liberal and good from every class, and to make converts from the world.

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Benevolent Organizations.

As will be seen by reference to the Minutes of the several Conferences, the CHRISTIANS are earnest workers in Sabbath School, Temperance, and Missionary labor, and in every work of benevolence they feel an interest and act a part.

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EDUCATION.

The CHRISTIANS have two denominational schools in the South. The "Suffolk Collegiate Institute," at Suffolk, Va., is in its third session.

JOSEPH KING, A. B., } Associate
JNO. H. WRIGHT, A.M., } Principals.

Mrs. SARAH B. ELEY, in charge of Female Department.

The "Graham High School," at Graham, N. C.

Rev. WM. S. LONG, } Associate
Rev. D. A. LONG, } Principals.

This school has been in successful operation for several years.

These schools are receiving the patronage of the Christians in the two States in which they are located.

Several young men are preparing themselves for the work of the ministry. One young man is at Trinity College, N. C. Five young men are attending the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, as ministerial students. Four or five are attending Graham High School, who have the ministry in view.

There are other schools of high grade, in Virginia and North Carolina, mainly patronized by the Christians.

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Places of Meeting of the Conferences for 1873.

Eastern Virginia—Cypress Chapel, Nansemond county, October 29th.
North Carolina and Virginia—Company Shops, N, C., November 14th.
Deep River—Parks' Cross Roads, September 25th.
Valley Virginia—Linville, Rockingham county, September 25th.
Georgia and Alabama—New Hope, Chambers county, Ala., September 26th.
North Carolina Colored Conference—November 6th.

General Convention of the Christian Church.

"The Southern Christian Association," organized in 1847, gave way to the "Southern Christian Convention," in 1856, and the "General Convention of the Christian Church" took the place of the latter organization in May, 1866.

The General Convention is composed of an equal number of Elders and Laymen, representing the annual Conferences in the proportion of one delegate to every four hundred members.

The General Convention has the supervision of all the general enterprises of the denomination, in the bounds of the Conferences connected with it.

Its work is accomplished through the agency of Standing Committees, on Publications, Schools and Colleges, and Missions, and special committees on all other subjects requiring mature deliberation and time.

All difficulties arising in the local Conferences may be carried to the General Convention by appeal, and the decision of the Convention is final.

It is made the duty of the President of the General Convention to visit as many of the Annual Conferences connected with the body as he can, and confer, counsel and advise with the brethren in everything connected with the work of the church.

The next regular session of the General Convention will be held at Graham, N. C., commencing the first Friday in May, 1874.

The following are the officers of the General Convention at present:

PRESIDENT,

Rev. W. B. WELLONS, Suffolk, Va.

VICE-PRESIDENT,

Rev. SOLOMON APPLE, Milton, N. C.

SECRETARY,

Rev. C. A. APPLE, Somerton, Va.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,

Rev. WILLIAM S. LONG, Graham, N. C.

TREASURER,

ALFRED MORING, Morrisville, N. C.

Rev. C. A. Apple, Somerton, Va., is Chairman of the Standing Committee on Publications; Rev. J. N. Manning, of Norfolk, Chairman of the Committee on Schools and Colleges; Rev. J. W. Wellons, Franklinton, N. C., is Chairman of the Committee on Missions, and Col. Alexander Savage, of Norfolk, Va., is Chairman of the Special Committee on Finance.

The General Convention held its last regular session at Suffolk, Va., in May, 1870. The proceedings of that and previous sessions may be obtained at the office of the "Christian Sun," at Suffolk.

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The Object of this Publication.

This annual publication was commenced with the view of acquainting the public more fully with the Christian organization—its history, its principles, its government, and its work. In years agone, the organization did not occupy its true position before the great public, and prejudices existed in the minds of many against it, which would never have been indulged if proper information could have been obtained. To place the Christians before the public in a true position is one great object aimed at in this publication.

The Minutes of the Conferences, and other matter, show the means being used for the permanent continuance of the denomination.

Although to some extent a separate and distinct organization from all others, yet they do not claim to be a sect in the usual acceptation and true definition of that

term. The organization claims no name which is not common to all believers in Christ. It has no peculiar doctrines of its own to advocate; accepting as it does the doctrines generally held by Protestant and Evangelical Christians as theirs. It asks and earnestly seeks the co-operation of all the followers of the Saviour in extending the benefits and comforts of the religion of Jesus to the whole human race.

The organization was formed not to separate the disciples of the Lord and make itself thereby a sect and its members sectarians, but it was formed for the purpose of uniting all the people of God in good works and in the propagation of the great truths of the Gospel.

The peculiar doctrines and tenets which have so long confused and distracted the church, producing division and multiplying sects, cease to be matters for debate and discussion in the CHRISTIAN organization. Holding the great fundamental doctrines and principles of the Gospel in common with the evangelical portion of the Protestant world, and extending to all the right of private judgment in all things not considered essential to salvation, no compromise of faith or opinion is required in order to communion and church fellowship. Denominational distinctions thus cease to exist, so far as christian fellowship and communion is concerned, and love binds the whole brotherhood together.

The purposes and aims of the organization will be consummated only when the world is reformed and the union of all the children of the common Father is effected.

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Ordinations.

N. B. Kiracofe, Valley Virginia Conference.
J. M. Wharton, Georgia and Alabama Conference.
W. R. Leger, Georgia and Alabama Conference.

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Licensures.

William W. Staley, North Carolina Conference.
Peter T. Klapp, " "
Stephen I. Ellis, " "
A. F. Iseley, " "
J. W. Pinnix, " "
Jeremiah W. Holt, " "

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Deposed from the Ministry.

T. G. Craven, Deep River Conference.

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New Churches Organized.

Oakland, Nansemond county, Va.
Sharon, Camden county, North Carolina.
Morrisville, Wake county, North Carolina.
Valley School House, Shenandoah county, Va.
New Centre, Randolph county, North Carolina.

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Dedications.

Oakland, Nansemond county, Va., February 18th, 1872.

Other Christian Organizations.

The first religious organization in the United States to take the name CHRISTIAN to the exclusion of all party names was the body represented in this Annual, whose organ is the *Christian Sun*, of Suffolk, Va.

There are, however, several other organizations in the United States known as Christians.

The "Christian Connection," as it is generally known in the Northern and Western States, is perhaps nearer on the platform occupied by the original Christians, in the South, than any other, but many of them have become tainted to a greater or less extent with Unitarianism, and have yet agreed upon no doctrinal basis, or declaration of principles, which prevents them from generally co-operating with the evangelical or orthodox denominations around them. They are, however, a revival people, and the great body of them a spiritual people, resembling the Methodists and Southern Christians much more in their manner of worship, than any unevangelical denomination. They number about 65,000 communicants.

The "Christian Union," of the Western States, came into existence during the late war, and is nearly on the platform occupied by the Christians in Virginia, North Carolina, and other States. They number about 20,000 or 25,000 communicants—have not laid down any doctrinal basis, or set forth any declaration of principles—are generally considered orthodox, but not yet fully organized. Their churches are called churches of the Christian Union, their annual meetings Councils, and the general meeting a General Council.

The "Disciples," or adherents to the system of doctrines promulgated by the late Alexander Campbell, of Bethany, Va., are sometimes called Christians, and in many places their churches are called Christian churches, growing out of the fact that many of the ministers and churches of the "Christian Connection," in Kentucky and adjoining States, united with the Disciples when the organization first came into existence. This denomination teaches that baptism by water is for the remission of sins, and that regeneration is only made complete in the act of immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit. They are quite numerous in the Western States, and have churches planted in most of the Northern and Southern States; but are in no way denominationally connected with any of the other organizations known as Christians.

Independent churches are springing up in various sections of the country, upon the almost precise platform of the Christians, such as Rev. Dr. Deems' "Church of the Strangers," and Rev. G. H. Hepworth's Church of the Disciples, in New York, and many others in different sections of the country.

Papers Published in the Interest of the Christians.

THE CHRISTIAN SUN, organ of the Christians in the South. Rev. W. B. Wellons, editor. Published weekly, at Suffolk, Va.; $2.50 a year. In its 26th volume. W. B. Wellons & Co., proprietors.

Herald of Gospel Liberty. Rev. H. Y. Rush, editor. Published weekly at Dayton, Ohio; $2 a year. In its 64th volume. Christian Publishing Association.

The Living Christian. Published weekly at Providence, R. I. Rev. Daniel Schindler, editor. $2 a year. In its 1st volume. A. W. Coan, publisher.

The Christian Pulpit, a monthly, edited by Rev. S. S. Newhouse and Rev. T. C. Smith; $2 a year. Christian publishing Association, Dayton, Ohio.

REVIVALS.

Many precious revivals have been experienced this year.

Rev. D. A. Long held an interesting meeting at Antioch, Rockingham county, Va., in January. Five were added to the church.

Rev. W. G. Clements held a meeting of nine days, at Hayes' Chapel, Wake county, N. C., the first and second weeks in August, resulting in the conversion of fourteen persons.

Four persons were converted at a meeting held by Rev. W. R. Brown, at New Providence, Moore county N. C., the last week in July and first week in August.

A gracious revival was experienced at Damascus, Orange county, N. C., the first week in August, under the labors of Rev. E. W. Beale. Fifteen persons were converted and nine united with the church.

A blessed revival meeting was held by Rev. M. B. Barrett, at Mt. Carmel, in Isle of Wight county, Va., on the first week in August. The meeting continued eight days—thirty-six converts—twenty-nine united with the church, and thirty were baptized by immersion.

Rev. E. W. Beale held a meeting at Lebanon, Caswell county, N. C., in August. Twenty persons were converted. Ten joined the church.

Rev. R. H. Holland held an interesting meeting at Damascus, Gates county, N. C., embracing the first Sunday in August. Twenty-one persons were converted and sixteen united with the church. Rev. C. A. Apple and Rev. J. T. Whitley aided the pastor.

At Berea, in Nansemond county, Va., Rev. W. B. Wellons held a meeting of six days, embracing the second Sunday in August. Twenty-three persons were converted and fifteen joined the church.

At Oakland, Nansemond county, Va., Rev. W. B. Wellons held a meeting of seven days, embracing the third Sunday in August. Twenty persons publicly confessed Christ, and twenty-three united with the church.

Rev. R. H. Holland held a meeting of five days at Union, Southampton county, which resulted in the conversion of nine persons.

Rev. J. T. Whitley held a meeting at Spring Hill, Sussex county, the first Sunday in August. Eight persons publicly confessed the Saviour.

Rev. J. N. Manning held a meeting of great interest at Berea, Norfolk county, Va., about the last of July. About thirty persons were converted.

At Providence, near Graham, N. C., the pastor, Rev. W. S. Long, aided by Bros. D. A. Long, Iseley and Beale, held a meeting of great interest, embracing the 1st week in August. Fifty persons professed faith in Christ, and about half that number were added to the church.

At Mt. Auburn, Warren county, N. C., Rev. J. W. Wellons held a meeting of much interest in August. Eighteen persons were converted, and seven joined the church.

Rev. C. A. Boon held a meeting of great interest at Moore Union, in Moore county, N. C., embracing the second Sunday in August. Six persons were converted and three united with the church.

At Zion, Chatham county, N. C., Rev. C. A. Boon held a meeting, embracing the third Sunday in August. Nine penitents were relieved.

At Shallow Well, Moore county, N. C., Rev. C. A. Boon held a meeting the last of August, which resulted in the conversion of fourteen persons.

Rev. J. N. Farrell held a meeting of much interest at Catawba Springs, Wake county, N. C., the first of September. About twenty persons were converted. Bro. Beale aided the pastor.

At Midway, Granville county, N. C., Rev. A. Apple and Rev. J. W. Wellons held a meeting in September, resulting in the conversion of five persons.

At Barrett's in Southampton county, Va., Rev. M. B. Barrett held a meeting the last of August, and several persons were converted.

Rev. W. B. Wellons held a meeting at Antioch, Isle of Wight county, Va., in September, which resulted in the conversion of thirty-nine persons and twenty-three additions to the church.

Rev. J. T. Whitley held an interesting meeting at Sunnyside, in Sussex county, Va., in September, which continued five days. Twenty-seven persons were converted, and twenty persons were received into the fellowship of the Spring Hill church.

At Cypress Chapel, Nansemond county, Va., Rev W. B. Wellons held a gracious meeting the last week in September. Twenty-one persons professed faith in Christ, most of whom united with the church.

At Bethlehem, in Alamance county, N. C., Rev, A. Iseley held a meeting of great interest, in September, assisted by Revs. D. A. Long, Thos. Truitt, and others. Forty-seven persons were converted and a number united with the church and were baptized.

At Pope's Chapel, Granville county, N. C., Rev. J. W. Wellons held a meeting of interest, in September. Seven persons were converted.

At Good Hope, in Granville county, N. C., Rev. J. W. Wellons had thirteen converts. In each of the above meetings he was aided by Rev. E. W. Beale and Rev. R. C. Tuck.

Rev. C. A. Apple held a meeting of much interest at Bethlehem, Nansemond county, Va., in September. Several persons were happily converted.

Rev. W. B. Wellons held a gracious meeting at Suffolk, in September and October, resulting in the conversion of thirty-five persons and thirty additions to the church. This was one of the most precious seasons ever enjoyed by the church.

These revivals were not simply seasons of excitement, but the work of grace in most cases was deep and abiding. In those conducted by the editor of the ANNUAL, and others witnessed by him, there was little noise and confusion, and nearly all who approached the altar as penitents were relieved of the burden of sin, and enabled to lay hold upon salvation.

ANNUAL

—OF—

The Christian Church

—FOR—

1873.

EDITED BY
REV. W. B. WELLONS.

Volume III.

SUFFOLK, VA.
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1874.

CONTENTS.

PAGE

The Christians..... iii
Minutes of the Eastern Virginia Conference..... 5
Minutes of the Valley Virginia Conference.....21
Minutes of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference.....29
Minutes of the Deep River Conference.....44
Minutes of the Georgia and Alabama Conference.....51
Conferences of Colored Persons.....54
Proceedings of the Sunday School Convention.....56
Ministerial Directory.....61
Ordinations 62
Licentiates.....62
New Churches.....62
Dedications 62
Education 62
Places of Meeting of Conferences for 1874.....62
Christian Book Concern.....62
Position on Christian Union.....63
Practice of the Christians.....63
General Convention of the Christians.....63
Other Christian Organizations.....64
Object of this Publication.....65
Periodicals.....65
Revivals.....65
Suffolk Collegiate Institute Advertisement.....67
Graham High School Advertisement.....68
Recommendation of Schools.....68
Books for Sale.....2d page of cover
New Publications.....Third page of cover
The Christian Sun—Book and Job Office.....Last page of cover

1873

THE CHRISTIANS.

The CHRISTIAN organization came into existence with the avowed purpose of seeking to unite the followers of Christ of every persuasion, in the breaking down of party walls, party spirit, and sectarian feeling and practice, and by infusing into the minds and hearts of all lovers of the common Saviour, a liberal spirit, thereby inducing liberal practice. That feeling which is now gaining strength day by day, they espoused when but few were found to sympathize with or co-operate with them. With this object prominently in view, the founders of the organization decided to discard all party names, and adopt the simple name CHRISTIAN, to the exclusion of all others, acknowledging no head to the church but CHRIST. They resolved to have no rule of faith and practice, but the HOLY SCRIPTURES. The test of fellowship agreed upon was CHRISTIAN CHARACTER. With these principles they determined that THE RIGHT OF PRIVATE JUDGMENT and the LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE should be accorded to, and enjoyed by all, in reference to those points of doctrine not considered essential to salvation. They decided that all who believe in, and love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, ought to be received into the fellowship and communion of the church.

The CHRISTIANS have no peculiar doctrines of their own to advocate. They hold tenaciously to those doctrines alone which are considered essential or fundamental in the constitution of the church. On all minor and unessential doctrines, they extend to all the fullest liberty and the freest exercise of their right of private judgment.

They have adopted a "Declaration of Principles," showing their unwavering faith in the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel, and devised a "Form of Government," on the basis of the Holy Scriptures, and have published a "Directory for Worship" and the administration of the Ordinances, which secures a great degree of uniformity in their practice.

As an independent organization, it has taken its position side by side with the Evangelical denominations of the world, and will give no countenance to heresy in any of its forms.

The strong union sentiment now permeating, to a greater or less extent, all denominations, is so much in keeping with the spirit which has long prevailed among the CHRISTIANS, that the position occupied by them is regarded with much more favor by

liberal-minded, thinking Christian men, than ever before. All the signs of the times seem to point to the Christian organization as the nucleus around which the great Union Church of the future is to gather, when the evil of party names shall be seen and shunned, the Holy Scriptures become the infallible rule to all, and brotherly love and charity reign throughout the whole body.

The future is bright with promise to the CHRISTIANS, and year by year they are putting on new zeal, and going forward with new energy and hope and faith.

The following pages will show what has been done in A. D. 1873, and their plans of labor for the future.

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Third Annual Session of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

The Christian Church at Cypress Chapel, Oct. 29, 30, 31, and Nov. 1, 1873.

CYPRESS CHAPEL, NANSEMOND CO., VA.,
October 29th, 1873.

The EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met here this morning in its fifty-third annual session. Rev. C. A. Apple, President of the last session, led in devotional exercises, and afterwards called the Conference to order.

The roll was called, and the following ministers and lay delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS.—W. B. Wellons, Mills B. Barrett, John N. Manning, C. A. Apple, and J. T. Whitley.

LAY-DELEGATES.—*Barrett's*—B. B. Harris, Charles F. Williams. *Berea*, (Norfolk Co.)—Wm. P. Bland, Wesley Hall. *Cypress Chapel*—Joshua B. Harrell, James E. Riddick, Jethro Riddick, Daniel Wilkins. *Damascus*—J. R. Hinton. *Holy Neck*—Abram Duke, Wm. F. Meltier. *Ivor*—G. G. G. Brittle, J. R. Rawls. *Liberty Spring*—John T. Rawls, A. J. Rabey. *Mt. Carmel*—Irvin W. Duck, John T. Cox. *Oakland*—B. C. Eley. *Providence*—G. D. Debaun, Robert Hyslop. *Sharon*—M. J. Overton, S. D. Burnham. *Suffolk*—John T. Nurney, Jacob Lawshe.—[For a full list of delegates, see statistical table.]

The temporary President announced a quorum present. The Secretary then took the Chair, and held an election for permanent President. Rev. C. A. Apple was nominated and unanimously elected.

Brother Apple, on taking his seat in the Chair, made a few remarks in acknowledgment of the confidence reposed in him by the body.

Rev. J. T. Whitley was elected Assistant Secretary.

On motion, the Conference then took a recess to hear the annual sermon. Rev. M. B. Barrett, who had been appointed to perform that duty, preached the sermon from 1 Cor. XIII, 13,

and Matt. XXII. 37, 38, 39: "*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity. * * * Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*"

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. E. W. Beale and Rev. R. C. Tuck, of the North Carolina Conference, and Rev. C. J. Ralston, of the Virginia Valley Conference, were invited to seats as deliberative members.

The following delegates reported their arrival: *Antioch*—J. W. Hall, A. M. Eley. *Oakland*—Jonas Walraven.

The President called for the annual reports from the Churches. Reports were handed in and read, from the Churches at Antioch, Barrett's, Berea (Norfolk County,) Bethlehem, Cypress Chapel, Holy Neck, Ivor, Mt. Carmel, Providence, Sharon, and Suffolk.

By direction of the President, the Secretary read the Rules of Order adopted at the last session.

Rev. J. T. Whitley read the following report of the Committee on Temperance:

REPORT.

The Committee on the subject of Temperance would suggest two duties to the Churches composing this Conference:

The first relates to the purity of the Church. It is universally conceded, that an intemperate church-member is a source of grief to his friends and of shame to the cause of religion. It is also beyond dispute, that in our own churches there are some who habitually use ardent spirits, to the injury of themselves and the scandal of the Church. We should meet this evil with a prompt rebuke, and use all proper means to exclude it from our midst. Pastors and other Church-officers should be vigilant to detect the first appearance of impropriety in the use of alcoholic drinks. In our opinion, it is highly improper for a christian to drink at a public bar, or to use alcohol freely in the privacy of his family. Whenever a member is known to be treading on dangerous ground in this direction, his brethren should at once admonish him of his error and try to lead him back to the paths of sobriety. If he will not heed private admonition, he should be cited before the Church to answer for unchristian conduct; and if he still prove incorrigible, he should be censured, suspended or excluded from the Church, as the brethren may determine. Promptitude in this matter will save many from disgrace and ruin.

The second duty of the Churches, according to our suggestion, relates to the world at large. The Church is a conservator of the purity of society, and as such should contribute as much as possible to the banishment of Intemperance. The world is looking to Christians for an example in all enterprises of social improvement. Let us set such an example as may be safely imitated. We suggest that our ministers give the subject of abstinence from intoxicating drinks a prominence in their discourses commensurate with its vital importance, and that our churches foster and encourage every enterprise looking to the substitution of pure cold water for the fiery and destructive beverages now so extensively used. Fraternally submitted,

J. T. WHITLEY, Ch'n.

On motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, the report was received, laid on the table and made the special order for to-morrow at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was read by Rev. J. N. Manning, as follows :

REPORT.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools would simply refer to the proceedings of the Sabbath School Convention connected with this Conference, for all information and suggestions, relating to this important enterprise of the Church, as that body has been organized by the approbation of Conference, and all its acts made of binding force upon the Churches as much so as any act of Conference.

We might say, however, that no enterprise of the Church is receiving more attention, or is in a more flourishing condition than Sabbath Schools. Every body seems impressed with the importance of such a work; the number of children in attendance, and the interest among the members of the church are constantly increasing. Yet it is doubtful whether the work is as systematic as it ought to be. The training is by no means thorough, and a certain vagueness in the fundamental doctrines of religion is every where perceptible. There is a want of definiteness in the elements of our faith so as to enable the child to give a reason of the hope that is in it, which many old persons, under the present state of things, cannot intelligibly do. This is owing perhaps to the fact that we have no suitable books for the use of our schools, and every body is forced to shape his own course as best he may.

We very greatly need an elementary work on Systematic Theology, simplified for the use of little children to accord with our Declaration of Principles. This is an enterprise certainly well worthy of all the attention we can give it.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING,
M. B. BARRETT,
Committee.

The report was received, and laid on the table until to-morrow, to be taken up immediately after the report on Temperance shall be disposed of.

On motion, Rev. E. W. Beale, and brethren Joshua B. Harrell, J. E. Riddick, Jethro Riddick and Daniel Wilkins were constituted a Committee on Religious Exercises during the present session.

The Conference adopted the following schedule of times for meeting and adjournment each day: Meet at 9½ o'clock A. M., and suspend business at 12 M., for preaching and refreshments; resume business immediately after refreshments and adjourn at will.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of Conference are due, and are hereby tendered, to Rev. M. B. Barrett, for the very able and instructive address delivered by him this day before Conference, and that a copy be requested for publication in the *Christian Sun*.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, the Chair appointed the following brethren a Committee to examine the records of the Churches : Rev. M. B. Barrett, B. C. Eley, G. D. Debaun.

Rev. J. N. Manning moved that a Committee be appointed to prepare a sketch of the life and labors of the late Rev. T.

W. Joyner, a member of this body. Adopted. The Chair appointed Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. J. T. Whitley and brother I. W. Duck.

A letter was read from Rev. R. H. Costen, absent Elder, giving an account of his labors, and wishing the Conference a pleasant session.

Rev. E. W. Beale, from the Committee on Religious Exercises, announced Rev. R. C. Tuck to preach to-morrow, at 12 o'clock.

Rev. W. B. Wellons, by permission of the Chair, made, in an informal manner, some earnest remarks upon the importance of the present session, as it relates to the community around Cypress Chapel, and the enterprises under the care of the body.

Rev. E. W. Beale, of the North Carolina Conference, having been laboring within the bounds of this Conference, applied for admission into this body. On motion, the application was referred to the Committee on Education, in accordance with the Form of Government of the Christian Church.

Rev. J. N. Manning moved the appointment of a Committee of three on Publications. The motion was carried, and the Chair appointed as that Committee, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. J. N. Manning and Professor Joseph King.

The body then adjourned until to-morrow morning, at 9½ o'clock. Religious services were conducted by Rev. R. C. Tuck. The President pronounced the benediction.

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[Second Day.]

October 30, 1873.

The Conference was called to order by the President. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

The roll of members was called, and absentees noted.

The proceedings of yesterday's session were read and adopted.

The annual report of the Church at Union was read, and brother James Daughtrey enrolled as a member of the Conference from that Church.

The annual report from the Church at Oakland was read. Also, the report from the Church at Liberty Spring.

The special order of the hour, being the discussion of the Report on Temperance, was taken up.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, Chairman of the Committee, made an

earnest speech in advocacy of the provisions of the report.

Rev. W. B. Wellons followed with a discussion of intemperance as a disease, and protesting against the liquor traffic.

Brother I. W. Duck made some interesting remarks, urging that the recommendations of the report be carried out in the various Churches ; announced his intention to do all in his power to carry them out in his own Church.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The annual report of the Church at Damascus was read.

Delegates Geo. J. Costen, of Damascus ; M. L. Watkins, of Antioch ; and Thomas Parker, of Bethlehem, arrived and took their seats. The tardy delegates were required to render an excuse for lateness. On motion, the brethren were excused.

The Conference then took a recess for public services and refreshments.

During the interim, a sermon was preached by Rev. R. C. Tuck. from Psalm I, 1, 2 :—"*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord ; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.*"

[Afternoon Session.]

Conference convened.

Brothers A. Savage and Jno. R. Gaskins, delegates from Berea, Nansemond County ; J. E. Daughtrey and Elijah Butler, from Hebron ; and M. H. Watkins, from Antioch, arrived and took their seats. These brethren being tardy, each rendered an excuse, which was accepted.

Rev. F. D. Power, a Fraternal Messenger from the Disciples' Convention of Virginia, was introduced to the President by Rev. J. N. Manning and by the President to the Conference. Bro. Power accepted the invitation in a brief and interesting address.

The special order of the hour, the consideration of the Report on Sunday Schools, was taken up.

Rev. J. N. Manning, took the floor and discussed the report. He advocated the preparation of an elementary treatise on Systematic Theology, according to the views held by the Christian Church.

A discussion of the propriety of continuing the Schools through the winter, sprang up between Revs. J. T. Whitley

and J. N. Manning, Col. A. Savage, Rev. W. B. Wellons, Col. M. H. Watkins, I. W. Duck, G. D. Debaun, and Rev. C. A. Apple.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Leave of absence was granted to bro. A. Duke for the remainder of the afternoon, and bro. Geo. J. Costen until Saturday morning.

Bro. H. T. West, delegate from Spring Hill, reported his presence, offered his excuse for tardiness, and was excused.

On motion, 11 o'clock Friday was set apart as the time for electing delegates from this Conference to the General Convention of the Christian Church, to be held at Graham, N. C., in May, 1874.

Ten o'clock Friday was set apart as the time for receiving reports of ministers.

On motion, the Conference decided to go at once into the selection of a place for the next session. Holy Neck, Nansemond County, was nominated and unanimously chosen as the place for the next session.

Rev. J. T. Whitley was elected to preach the introductory sermon at the annual session of 1874.

The body then elected Fraternal Messengers to sister Conferences: Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. W. B. Wellons, Rev. C. A. Apple, and Rev. J. N. Manning were chosen to the North Carolina Conference; Revs. W. B. Wellons, J. T. Whitley and M. B. Barrett were appointed to the Virginia Valley Conference; Revs. J. N. Manning and W. B. Wellons, to the Disciples' State Convention of Virginia; and Rev. W. B. Wellons to the Deep River Valley Conference.

The Conference then adjourned until to-morrow at 9½ o'clock. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. J. N. Manning.

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[Third Day.]

October 31, 1873.

The Conference was called to order by the President, and appropriate religious exercises were conducted by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

The roll was called and absentees noted.

The proceedings of yesterday's session were read and approved.

The reports of ministers were called for, in accordance with the motion passed yesterday, making that the special order for 10 o'clock this morning. Reports were read from Revs. C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley, R. C. Tuck, E. W. Beale and W. B. Wellons.

The annual report of the Church at Spring Hill was handed in and read.

The ministers appointed at the last session as Fraternal Messengers to sister Conferences, were called upon for their reports. Those who failed to attend were asked for reasons, and were excused by vote.

Bro. Joseph King, delegate from Bethlehem, arrived and took his seat.

The special order, being the election of delegates to the General Convention of the Christian Church, was called up.

Rev. W. B. Wellons made some explanatory remarks before nominations were made.

This Conference being entitled to seven delegates, on motion of Bro. M. L. Watkins, it was decided to elect four ministers and three laymen.

Nominations being called for, the following were made: Col. M. H. Watkins nominated Rev. J. T. Whitley; Bro. M. L. Watkins nominated Rev. C. A. Apple; Col. A. Savage nominated Rev. J. N. Manning; Rev. J. N. Manning nominated Rev. W. B. Wellons; Bro. I. W. Duck nominated Rev. M. B. Barrett.

On motion of Bro. A. Savage, the vote was taken by ballot.

The ballot was circulated and the following declared elected: Rev. W. B. Wellons, Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. C. A. Apple and Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Rev. M. B. Barrett was unanimously elected ministerial alternate.

Nominations of lay-delegates were called for; Bros. Joseph King, I. W. Duck, Wm. Eley and M. H. Watkins were nominated. The ballot resulted in the election of Joseph King, I. W. Duck and Wm. Eley.

On motion, Bros. M. H. Watkins and M. L. Watkins were declared lay-alternates.

A recess was then taken for preaching and dinner. During the recess Rev. J. T. Whitley preached a sermon from Galatians III, 28: *For ye are all one in Christ Jesus."*

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

The Conference resumed business.

Bros. M. J. Overton and S. D. Burnham, delegates from Sharon, were excused from further attendance upon the Conference.

Bro. J. W. Hall, delegate from Antioch, was granted leave of absence for the remainder of the session, and Bro. B. F. Roberts, an alternate, was enrolled in his stead.

The Committee on Church Records presented the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

We, the Committee to examine the Church Records, have had the books of the following Churches presented to us: Antioch, Barrett's, Berea, (Nansemond,) Berea, (Norfolk County,) Cypress, Damascus, Holy Neck, Ivor, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Providence, Spring Hill, Suffolk and Union, and find that they are kept in accordance with the plan of Conference. No books have been handed in from Hebron, Jerusalem, Johnson's Grove, Liberty, Liberty Spring and Sharon.

We would simply call the attention of those Churches that have not sent their books to Conference, to the duties of the Church as found in section 4 of our Form of Government, and to a resolution adopted at our last Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. BARRETT,
B. C. ELEY,
G. D. DEBAUN. } Commt'e.

Bro. Joseph King, tardy delegate, rendered his excuse, which was accepted.

The annual report of the Church at Hebron was read.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. J. T. Whitley:

Resolved, That the Churches of this Conference be requested to take into consideration the propriety of appointing ladies as collectors and treasurers.

The resolution was discussed affirmatively by the author and Rev. W. B. Wellons, after which it was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Education offered the following partial report, which was unanimously adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Education, after due inquiry, would recommend that Rev. E. W. Beale, who has received a transfer from the North Carolina and Virginia Conference to this Conference, be received as an Elder in this body.

W. B. WELLONS, Chairman.

The President announced to bro. Beale his reception into the Conference, whereupon bro. Beale responded in appropriate terms.

The superintendents of colored ministers and Churches reported as follows:

REPORT.

The Superintendents of the colored ministers and churches, would report that

they have counseled, advised and co-operated as far as it seemed prudent with the colored ministers and members of the Christian Church, in this part of the State, and are glad to say that they are being prospered. The question of a Conference organization has been freely discussed and decided upon. We have advised and proposed to assist them in the organization of a Conference. We advise that this Conference express its approbation of the organization of a Conference of colored ministers and churches in this part of Virginia, and instruct the Superintendents to be appointed by this body to aid in such organization. W. B. WELLONS, R. H. HOLLAND. } Supts.

The report was explained by Rev. W. B. Wellons, and afterwards adopted.

The propriety of prosecuting the enterprise of building a Church in the city of Norfolk, was brought up for discussion. Rev. W. B. Wellons led off in an earnest speech in favor of its prosecution. He was followed by Bros. A. Savage, I. W. Duck and Rev. J. N. Manning. On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, the subject was laid on the table and made the special order for to-morrow 12 o'clock.

Conference adjourned. Religious services by Rev. J. N. Manning.

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[Fourth Day.]

Nov. 1, 1873.

Conference met this morning with the President in the Chair. Rev. M. B. Barrett led in prayer.

The roll of ministers and delegates was called, and the proceedings of yesterday read, corrected and appoved.

Rev. E. W. Beale was nominated and elected a ministerial alternate from this body to the General Convention, to meet at Graham, N. C., next May.

Bro. James A. Parker, delegate from Suffolk, announced his presence, was enrolled, gave his reason for tardiness and was excused.

On motion, the name of Hugh S. Dunn was erased from the list of ministers of this Conference, he having united with another religious denomination.

The special Committee on Publications offered the following report:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Publications deeply appreciate the power of the press; and they are glad to see that the Conference is using this medium through which to reach and influence the public mind.

We cordially commend to all lovers of truth, the CHRISTIAN SUN, edited and published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, as a faithful exponent of liberal, warm-hearted christianity. The improvement it has made for the past few years, and the indomitable perseverance and delicate tact of its publisher, give assurance of still greater success in the future. We suggest that each Church appoint a Standing Committee, whose duty it shall be to canvass the congregation and see the paper freely circulated.

The question of the propriety of publishing a Sunday School paper, for the benefit of our Southern Schools, has been agitated already. The matter is of such importance that we recommend to this Conference to instruct its delegates to the General Convention, to bring it before that body and use their influence to procure the publication of such a paper.

As some of our brethren urge the necessity of an elementary work on Systematic Theology, for use in Sunday Schools and families, we recommend that Rev. J. N. Manning be requested to prepare such a work and submit the manuscript to the General Convention, or to a Committee of that body, for approval and publication.

We are pleased to see that our enterprising publisher, Rev. W. B. Wellons, has lately issued a pamphlet on Christian Union, from the pen of a prominent clergyman of another denomination. We hope that others of a similar character and object will shortly follow. Fraternally submitted,

J. T. WHITLEY, Ch'n.

After a few explanatory remarks by the Chairman, the report was adopted.

The hour for the special order—the consideration of the Norfolk Mission—having arrived, that subject was taken up.

The Committee on Home Missions, to whom that matter had been referred, made the following recommendation :

The Committee would recommend that Rev. J. N. Manning be directed to go forward with the Norfolk Mission, purchase a lot, collect subscriptions sufficient to raise and cover the house, supposed to cost about $2,000, and that twenty members of the Church, Bro. Manning included, unite in an obligation to the Conference to see a house completed, costing in the aggregate $5,000.

The subject was discussed by Rev. J. N. Manning, after which, on motion of Bro. G. D. Debaun, it was decided to obtain names to the obligation at once.

Rev. J. N. Manning and Bro. I. W. Duck were appointed solicitors, and they proceeded at once to work.

The plan was pronounced a success and the names of persons responsible announced as follows : Jonas Walraven, 2 shares ; G. D. Debaun, 2 shares ; J. N. Manning, 1 share ; I. W. Duck, 2 shares ; Alex. Savage, 2 shares ; P. H. Lee, 2 shares, and the following 1 share each : M. H. Watkins, Ro. J. Eley, M. L. Watkins, James Daughtrey, W. B. Wellons, H. T. West, A. J. Rabey, Jno. T. Nurney, K. Harrison.

Brothers Debaun and Hyslop were granted leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

The roll of churches was called, to ascertain the number of copies of the Christian Annual each church would take.

Leave of absence was granted to Bros. Jacob E. Daughtrey and Elijah Butler for the remainder of the session.

Bros. Hall and Bland, of Berea, (Norfolk Co.,) were granted leave of absence.

The Conference then took a recess for dinner.

[Afternoon Session.]

Business was resumed.

The President announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year :

Education—W. B Wellons, J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley.
Sunday Schools—J. T. Whitley, M. B. Barrett, John Oberry.
Temperance—J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale, R. H. Holland.
Home Missions—A. Savage, W. B. Wellons, I. W. Duck, A. L. Hill, M. H. Watkins.
Executive Committee—W. B. Wellons, E. W. Beale, J. N. Manning.
Superintendents of Colored Churches—J. N. Manning, W. B. Wellons, M. B. Barrett.

The Committee on Education offered the following report, which, on motion, was taken up by subjects for consideration :

REPORT.

The Committee on Education report the condition of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, as hopeful and even prosperous. There are at present 65 pupils in the school, and both the Male and Female departments have promise of increase.

We regret to have to state that the hope of entirely liquidating the debt due on the building has not been realized. It may be of interest to the friends of the school for us to present a full exhibit of its finances to the present: The whole amount collected from every source toward the establishment of this school, has been $3,080-25. There has been expended in the purchase of the lot, enclosing it, the erection of the buildings and the furnishing of the rooms and painting of the houses and enclosures, the sum of $4,338,75; making the expenditure $1,258,50 above the amount collected. There remains due on subscriptions, supposed to be collectible $774,50, leaving a deficit of $484 to be provided for in the future. This deficit, in the calculation at the last Conference, has been brought about by the painting of the buildings, changing some part of the building, and the interest on note in Bank. For this deficit seven friends of the school, are on a note in Bank for $900, and one of the seven friends of the school is individually bound for the balance. Some responsibility had to be assumed by individuals or we never could have gone forward. But these friends are anxious to be relieved, and think, as the school belongs to the Conference, and is to be a blessing to the denomination, that all should come up to their assistance and relieve them at once. The debt due on the Institution is as small or smaller than on any school of its character with which we are acquainted, and can be easily removed by a general co-operation.

Your Committee would state that during the past year four young men preparing for the ministry have been kept in the school most of the time. The expenses of one has been half met, by one individual, and it is expected that the balance due on his expenses will be met by another friend. Many of the pledges made at last Conference, toward the support of these young men. have not yet been paid; and about $130 is due B. F. Cutchin & Co., who have furnished them. These young men are not charged any tuition in the school, and their board, clothing and books, make up nearly all the expense they are at. We hope all the church and individual subscriptions will be promptly met, the debt due on their expenses paid, and arrangements to continue these young men at school perfected.

We advise that Bros. John T. Kitchen and J. Pressley Barrett, receive license to

preach, at this session, they having passed a fair examination, and having already been exercising under the approbation of the Committee. If thus licensed, we hope they will be able to secure for their ministerial services, a large part of the amount necessary to continue them in school for the next year. Bros. N. B. Munford and Harrison H. Butler, we advise, shall be continued at school. Bro. I. W. Duck, agrees to meet half the expenses of Bro. Butler. We hope the Conference will raise by subscription, at once, the sum of $250, to continue the four young men at school. This is the smallest amount which can be asked for, and if the sum could be raised to $300, it would liquidate the debts due, with what may be collected on the old subscription. As soon as we are in a condition to receive them, other young men will be knocking at our doors. Brethren, the amount thus far invested in the education of young men for the ministry, is paying us compound interest at a high rate, and we may safely, taking the past as a criterion, invest further in this direction.

Our suggestions and our statements are alike before you, and we would ask for prompt action. Respectfully submitted,

W. B. WELLONS, Ch'n.

The paragraph relating to the Suffolk Collegiate Institute was explained by the Chairman of the Committee, and adopted. The paragraph referring to the raising of money to continue clerical students at school, was adopted. On motion, the roll of churches was called, to allow subscriptions to be made; on calling the roll, and asking for individual subscriptions, the sum of $285 was raised for the education of young ministers; the contributions being as follows: CHURCHES—Antioch, $25; Barrett's, $10; Bethlehem, $10; Berea, Nansemond, $20; Berea, Norfolk Co., $5; Cypress Chapel, $15; Damascus, $10; Hebron, $10; Holy Neck, $20; Liberty Spring, lot of bacon; Oakland, $10; Providence, $10; Spring Hill, $15; Suffolk, $20; Union, $10. INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS—Josiah Wilkins, $2,50; J. Walraven, (paid) $5; J. B. Riddick, $5; Jas. A. Parker, $5; A. M. Eley, (paid) $2,50; J. R. Rawls, $2,50; J. R. Hinton, $2,50; E. L. Eley, $5; J. W. Hall, $2,50; M. L. Watkins, $5; Ro. W. Nelms, 2,50; Geo. J. Costen, $5; Charles T. King, $2,50; Jas. Brittain, $2,50; B. F. Roberts, $2,50; Abram Duke, $2,50; M. H. Watkins, $2,50; Jethro Riddick, $2,50; Dawson C. Parker, $2,50; Wm. H. Cogsdale, (paid) $2,50; Mrs. A. L. Hill, $5; Miss Mamie Hill, $5; Miss Mary J. Bond, $4; Cash, (Mrs. B.) $1; Mrs. Annie Kilby, $1; Mrs. Kate Peel, (paid 2,50) $5; Miss Maggie Parker, (paid) $1; Mrs. Maggie Harrison, $5; Miss Mollie Ames, $1, Mrs. Cornelia Brothers, $1, Miss Kate Riddick, $1.—Total $285.

That section of the report recommending the licensure of Bros. John T. Kitchen and J. P. Barrett, was adopted, and the President announced that the ceremony would be performed to-morrow (Sunday,) immediately before the public service.

The report was then adopted as a whole.

An effort was made to obtain subscriptions to stock in the "Institute," to relieve those mentioned in the report, which resulted in the subscription of $77 only.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced the following appointments for Sunday: Rev. J. N. Manning at 11 A. M., and Rev. M. B. Barrett, in the afternoon.

The Committee on Home Missions made the following report:

REPORT.

The Committee on Missions submit the following: We ascertain that the following arrangements have been perfected for the ensuing year, by the churches, in counsel with us:

Suffolk—W. B. Wellons.
Cypress, Damascus, Berea and Oakland—E. W. Beale.
Antioch and Spring Hill—J. T. Whitley.
Barrett's, Union and Mt. Carmel—M. B. Barrett.
Providence, Berea, (Norfolk Co.) and Sharon—R. C. Tuck.
Liberty Spring and Hebron—C. J. Ralston.
Holy Neck—C. A. Apple.
Liberty—J. T. Kitchen, assisted by E. W. Beale.
Johnson's Grove—J. P. Barrett, assisted by R. H. Holland.

We recommend C. J. Ralston to the church at Ivor, and C. A. Apple to Bethlehem, arrangements not being entirely perfected at these churches.

We advise that the Committee on Missions be instructed to procure the services of a young man for Jerusalem, and report through the Christian Sun.

Elders Robert Rawls, S. S. Barrett and R. H. Costen, have received no regular appointment.

We further advise that J. N. Manning be continued in the interest of the Norfolk Mission, and that he be instructed to go forward, purchase a lot, collect amounts subscribed, and expend on the house, and that twenty members of the church be constituted a Board, who shall become responsible to the Conference for the erection of a house of worship, to cost in the aggregate $5,000.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. WELLONS,
I. W. DUCK,
A. SAVAGE. } Commt'e.

On motion of Bro. A. Savage, a unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to the members of Cypress Chapel Church and the citizens of the community, for the hospitality shown the Conference during its session.

The report of the Committee on Memoirs was offered as follows:

The Committee on Memoirs, appointed to prepare a sketch of the life and labors of our beloved Brother Rev. T. W. Joyner, who departed this life during the past Conference year, would ask for further time to seek for full information respecting the life and labors of Bro. Joyner, as sufficient data are not at hand to enable the Committee to report satisfactorily during the session of the body and to allow the Committee to report through the Annual.

In order that expressions of our high esteem and love for the departed be given, we would offer the following:

Resolved, That in the death of Rev. T. W. Joyner, whose meekness, piety and efficiency distinguished him as one of the brightest examples of Christian virtue and usefulness, the Church has lost one of its most faithful and earnest workers, and the country a devoted and patriotic citizen.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathise with his bereaved widow and sorrowing relatives in their sad affliction.

J. N. MANNING, Ch'n.

In discussing the report, brief eulogies, upon the character of

the deceased, were delivered by Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. C. A. Apple, and Rev. J. T. Whitley. The report was then unanimously adopted.

The Conference adjourned, to meet on Wednesday before the 1st Sunday in November, 1874, at Holy Neck, Nansemond County, Va. Religious exercises by Rev W. B. Wellons.

C. A. APPLE, *President.*

W. B. WELLONS, *Sect'y.*

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

W. B. Wellons —Have been in charge of the church in Suffolk, where I have preached twice every Sabbath, and held a prayer meeting every Tuesday evening. Have been absent but three whole Sabbaths in the year; once to dedicate a new church in the Valley, once to perform the funeral service of a dear friend, and once in attendance upon the World's Evangelical Alliance in New York. Have edited the CHRISTIAN SUN, and superintended all the publications of the church—have continued in the Agency of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute—preached 101 sermons—performed the service at 60 funerals, and married 26 couples.

M. B. Barrett—Have had charge of the churches at Barrett's, Union and Mt. Carmel, preaching monthly at each—held a protracted meeting at each appointment resulting in the conversion of 117 persons, in the aggregate. Assisted in protracted meetings at Jerusalem, Berea and Antioch—visited the Valley Virginia Conference—preached about 100 sermons, and have attended 20 funerals—received 78 persons into church-fellowship, baptized 35, and have married 15 couples.

J. N. Manning—Have spent all the time I could in the Norfolk mission; preached once every Sabbath, for about six months in a Hall in the City; have about $2,500 in good subscriptions for a house of worship; have found no other parties willing to assume responsibilities, and my work stands still; am still at your service to work where you may think I can be useful; have aided this year in several protracted meetings, and preached frequently in the charges of other brethren.

J. T. Whitley—Had the pastoral charge of the churches at Antioch, Spring Hill and Ivor, and with slight interruption have preached once a month at Sunnyside, and have preached occasionally at Walnut Grove, besides preaching three Sunday nights in the month at Windsor, most of the year. During the year I have preached about 100 sermons; delivered 15 funeral discourses, and have lectured on various occasions. At Spring Hill, 27 persons have been converted; at Sunnyside, 17. I have received 24 persons into the fellowship of the church at Spring Hill At Antioch, 37 persons have professed conversion, and 23 have been received into church-fellowship.

E. W. Beale—I have had the pastoral charge of the churches at Cypress, Damascus, Berea and Oakland; have preached 70 sermons; held three protracted meetings; received 24 members in the church; married 3 couples, and have attended 4 funerals. I have received from the churches of my charge and private individuals about $850.

C. A. Apple—Have served the churches at Holy Neck and Bethlehem, and have also acted as pastor at Liberty Spring, holding the quarterly meetings only, at that place. Have delivered about 100 sermons and lectures; received forty members in the churches of my charge; baptized about the same number; written regularly for the *Christian Sun*; conducted a Classical School, and dedicated one house of worship in Halifax County; labored much in the Sunday School work.

R. C. Tuck—Have had charge of the churches at Providence, Berea, (Norfolk Co.,) and Sharon. A gracious revival experienced at each appointment; 75 persons have united with the churches of my charge; assisted in two other protracted meetings; performed more labor than in any one year of my life; have preached 100 times and labored in the Sunday School and Temperance work; feel greatly encouraged.

S. S. Barrett—Labored awhile with Jerusalem church, and deemed it best to resign my charge; have visited the churches at Barrett's, Providence and Liberty, and labored some among other denominations.

R. H. Costen—Have done what I could in my humble way; my labors have been blessed at the Alms House in the city of Norfolk.

Other ministers failed to make any report.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY-DELEGATES.	Reported last Session.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. of communicants,	Sunday Schools.	Connected with Sunday Schools,	Paid Pastor.	To educate young Preachers.	Other purposes.	Whole amount.	Value of church Property.
Antioch,	J. T. Whitley,	M. H. Watkins, J. W. Hall, A. M. Eley, M. L. Watkins,	538	25	2	3	7	8	543	3	233	$350	$35	$32,16	417 16	$3,000
Barrett's,	M. B. Barrett,	B. B. Harris, C F. Williams,	101	56			3	1	153	1	117	50	1	33,00	83 00	1,000
Bethlehem,	C. A. Apple,	T. Parker, J. King, C. T. King,	220	8	3		3	3	219	2	130	175	15	75,00	265 00	800
Berea, Nans'd,	E. W. Beale,	A. Savage, J. R. Gaskins,	79	9	4	1			83	1	55	150	20	275,00	445 00	1,500
Berea, Norfolk,	R. C. Tuck,	W. P. Bland, W. Hall,	42	30					72	1	73	125		10,00	135 00	1,500
Cypress,	E. W. Beale,	J. Riddick, J. E. Riddick, D. Wilkins, J. B. Harrell,	358		3	1	6		348	1	97	275	20	185,00	480 00	1,800
Damascus,	E. W. Beale,	G. J. Costen, J. R. Hinton,	105	1			2		104			125	15	28,00	168 00	100
Hebron,	R. H. Holland,	J. E. Daughtrey, E. Butler,	92	1	2			2	89	1	36	75	10	45,00	130 00	1,000
Holy Neck,	C. A. Apple,	A. Duke, W. F. Meltier,	386	28	1	2	3	4	404	1	85	200	20	550,00	770 00	2,000
Ivor,	J. T. Whitley,	G. G. G. Brittle, J. R. Rawls,	23	1				2	22	1	68	50	5		55 00	500
Jerusalem,			34	1	1		1		33				10		10 00	800
Johnson'sGrove	R. H. Holland,		29	1		1	1	1	27	1	33	50			50 00	800
Liberty,			25													1,000
Liberty Spring,	C. A. Apple,	A. J. Rabey, J. T. Rawls,	61	4			1		64	1	68	60		15,00	75 00	1,000
Mt. Carmel,	M. B. Barrett,	I. W. Duck, J. T. Cox,	112	12		5	2	4	113	1	122	100	25	25,00	150 00	1,200
Oakland,	E. W. Beale,	B. C. Eley, J. Walraven,	27	15			1		41	1	84	100	35	236,00	371 00	1,000
Providence,	R. C. Tuck,	G. D. Debaun, R. A. Hyslop,	50	20					70	1	74	225	10	72,00	307 00	1,500
Sharon,	R. C. Tuck,	M. J. Overton, S. D. Burnham,	12	23			1		34	1	47	55			55 00	500
Spring Hill,	J. T. Whitley,	H. T. West,	128	24	4		4	1	143	2	88	225	25	48,00	298 00	1,500
Suffolk,	W. B. Wellons,	J. T. Nurney, J. A. Parker,	167	6	1		2		170	1	152	700	26	563,00	1,289	3,000
Union,	M. B. Barrett,	J. Daughtrey,	61	10					71	1	36	75		162,79	237 79	1,000
			2650	275	21	13	37	26	2803	22	1598	$3,165	$266	2,354 95	$5,690 95	26,500

MINUTES

OF THE

Valley Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

LINVILLE, ROCKINGHAM CO., VA., OCT. 9th, 10th and 11th, 1873.

LINVILLE, ROCKINGHAM CO., VA., }
October 9th, 1873. }

The VALLEY VA. CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met at this place to-day, in its fifth annual session and was called to order at 11 o'clock A. M., by Rev. G. W. Woods, President of the last session.

The standing Secretary called the roll and the following ministers and lay-delegates were reported present:

ELDERS—G. W. Woods, N. B. Kiracofe.

LICENTIATE—C. J. Ralston.

LAY-DELEGATES.—*Antioch*—Jesse Burkholder, D. F. Lineweaver. *Dayton*—N. B. Kiracofe. *Linville*—J. C. Williams, A. R. Rineheart. *Soliloquy*—Ephraim Woods. *Plains*—J. Silvies. *Valley*—John Rhineheart. *Bethlehem*———

A quorum being present, the Rev. G. W. Woods, President of last session, called upon Rev. C. J. Ralston to lead the body in devotional exercises.

It was then announced that nominations for President were in order.

Rev. N. B. Kiracofe nominated Jesse Burkholder. D. F. Lineweaver put Rev. G. W. Woods in nomination, but afterwards withdrew the nomination at the solicitation of Bro. Woods. There being no other nominations, the President appointed Bro. Williams to cast the vote, which resulted in the election of Bro. Jesse Burkholder, President.

Bro. Burkholder, the President, on taking the chair, in a brief speech thanked the Conference for the token of their appreciation they had given.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, the Secretary was granted the privilege of selecting his own assistant.

The President then announced that the Rev. M. B. Barrett, of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference, was present.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Bro. Barrett was invited to a seat in Conference, as a deliberative member. Bro. Barrett

responded to the invitation in appropriate terms, on taking his seat in the Conference.

The Annual Address being next in order, on motion of Rev. G. W. Woods, the delivering was postponed until Saturday morning 11 o'clock.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Ralston, Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, J. C. Williams and D. F. Lineweaver were appointed a Committee on Religious exercises during the present session.

Rev. N. B. Kiracofe offered the following:

WHEREAS, the Rev. G. W. Woods has served this Conference for the last two years, faithfully and acceptably: Therefore,

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this Conference are due and are hereby tendered to Bro. Woods for his past service.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Ralston, the following schedule for meeting and adjournment each day, was adopted: Meet at 9½ o'clock A. M., and adjourn at 11 A. M. for service; meet at 1½ P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion of E. Woods, Conference adjourned until afternoon.

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

1½ o'clock P. M.

Conference met, with the President in the Chair; prayer by Bro. D. F. Lineweaver.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Ralston, the President appointed the following as a Committee to prepare rules and by-laws for this Conference, to report at its next Annual Session: Committee, Revs. N. B. Kiracofe, C. J. Ralston, Bro. D. F. Lineweaver.

The President then called for the reports of the Churches, which were read.

On motion of Bro. Lineweaver, the following Committees were appointed:

CHURCH RECORDS—Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, J. C. Williams and Rev. G. W. Woods.

PERIODICALS—Revs. C. J. Ralston, N. B. Kiracofe, Bro. D. F. Lineweaver.

The Committee on Temperance then presented their report, and after considerable discussion by Rev. G. W. Woods, Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. C. J. Ralston and Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, it was received and adopted.

The Committee on Temperance submitted the following:

REPORT.

Your Committee believe that the use of intoxicating liquors is, for persons in health, not only unnecessary but hurtful. That it is the cause of forming intemperate appetites and habits, and that while it is continued the evils of intemperance can

never be prevented. Therefore, in order to prevent those evils, your Committee would beg leave to offer the following, for your consideration and adoption:

WHEREAS, intemperance is inconsistent with the spirit of Christianity; and whereas, the use of ardent spirits, as a beverage, leads to intemperance, therefore,

Resolved, That no Church ought to tolerate the manufacture or traffic of ardent spirits, as a beverage, by its members.

C. J. RALSTON, Ch'n.

The Committee on religious exercises then announced the Rev. M. B. Barrett to preach to-night at 7½ o'clock, and the Rev. C. J. Ralston to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, Conference adjourned, with prayer by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

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[SECOND DAY.]

Friday morning, Oct. 10, 1873.

Conference convened, with the President in the chair.

Religious exercises by Bro. J. C. Williams.

The proceedings of Thursday were read, and after some corrections, were approved.

On motion of J. C. Williams, Ministerial Reports were called for and read.

The President called for the reports of the Fraternal Messengers.

Rev. C. J. Ralston reported, he had attended the Eastern Virginia Conference, and stated there was a warm feeling existing between the two bodies.

Bros. Woods and Kiracofe reported their inability to attend according to appointment. On motion of J. C. Williams, they were excused.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools presented their report, which called forth remarks from Revs. M. B. Barrett, N. B. Kiracofe, C. J. Ralston, and Bro. D. F. Lineweaver:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the following Report: We are deeply impressed with the great importance of sustaining the Sabbath School cause within the bounds of our Conference. We have witnessed with pleasure the glorious results which have attended our efforts in the past, and would recommend to all the Churches belonging to this Conference, to maintain the position they have heretofore assumed in reference to this subject. Yet we would go farther; we would urge upon all our people the importance of putting forth greater efforts for the promotion of an enterprise which tends so much to advance the interests of our Church and the cause of our blessed Redeemer.

Your Committee would recommend the organization of Sabbath Schools wher-

ever there may be an opening for the same. The Schools in all our Churches at present are in a very prosperous condition.

Your Committee would suggest the propriety of organizing, within the bounds of this Conference, a Sabbath School Convention, and would request Conference to adopt some plan to carry out the above suggestion.

N. B. KIRACOFE, Ch'n.

On motion, it was received and adopted.

On motion of Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, the following were appointed as a Committee to arrange and establish a Sabbath School Convention within the bounds of this Conference: Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, D. F. Lineweaver, Rev. G. W. Woods, Bro. E. Woods, Bro. C. A. Hinton and Bro. Jesse Burkholder.

On motion of Bro. J. C. Williams, Revs. G. W. Woods, C. J. Ralston and N. B. Kiracofe were chosen Fraternal Messengers to the Eastern Virginia Conference.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Rev. G. W. Woods was chosen Fraternal Messenger to the North Carolina Conference.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Conference went into an election of Delegates to the General Convention. The Rev. N. B. Kiracofe was chosen delegate, and Rev. C. J. Ralston was chosen alternate. Laymen—Bros. C. A. Hinton delegate, and D. F. Lineweaver alternate.

On motion of E. Woods, Conference took a recess for religious service.

Rev. C. J. Ralston delivered a discourse from Psalms lxxx chapter, 47 verse.

[Afternoon Session.]

1½ o'clock P. M.

Conference met and was led in prayer by the President.

There being no business before the house, the President called the Rev. N. B. Kiracofe to the Chair and introduced the following:

LINVILLE CHURCH, ROCKINGHAM CO., VA.

October 10th, 1873.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, the following was adopted:

The Valley Virginia Christian Conference met on the——day of August, 18—. in Page County, Virginia, being the annual session of that body, and at that time there was a certain sum of money raised by the congregation and placed in the hands of John Burkholder, for the purpose of buying a horse for the Rev. A. J. Kibler.

Whereas, the same body met in Edinburg, Shenandoah County, Virginia, on the——day of August, 1869, being ——annual session of that body, and for reasons not necessary to mention here, a portion of that body withdrew from the General Convention, South, and as it is a matter of contention and dispute which of the bodies are to have said sum of money, and will likely lead to litigation; and for the sake of peace between the two bodies,

Resolved, That we, the Valley Virginia Christian Conference, set up no further claim for the said sum of money retained in the hands of John Burkholder.

Signed, by order of Conference.

JESSE BURKHOLDER, President.

C. J. RALSTON, Secretary.

Which created considerable discussion by Revs. C. J. Ralston, N. B. Kiracofe, M. B. Barrett, G. W. Woods and Bro. Lineweaver.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Mr. John Burkholder was invited into the bar of Conference to give an explanation of the matter.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, the resolution, with the preamble, was adopted.

The Secretary was directed to furnish Mr. John Burkholder with a copy of the preamble and resolution, signed by the President and Secretary.

The Conference then, by a vote, decided to have the proceedings of this session, published in the Christian Annual, delegates from each church becoming individually responsible for the payment of cost.

On motion of Bro. Lineweaver, Conference proceeded to the selection of a place for the next meeting, whereupon, Antioch was chosen.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Rev. C. J. Ralston was chosen to deliver the next annual address.

The Committee on religious exercises then announced the Rev. G. W. Woods to preach this evening at 7½ o'clock, and the Rev. N. B. Kiracofe to deliver the annual address to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Bro. J. C. Williams, Conference adjourned, with prayer by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

—o—

[Saturday Morning.]

October 11th.

Conference met. The President in the chair.

Religious exercises by Rev. G. W. Woods.

The Committee then submitted the following, which, after an earnest speech from Rev. M. B. Barrett, was adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Periodicals beg leave to report, we are glad to have such a paper as the Christian Sun, the only church organ we have. We, therefore, heartily endorse the Christian Sun as the organ of this Conference. We desire to see the

paper circulated throughout the bounds of our Conference, and pledge ourselves to aid in securing this important end.

C. J. RALSTON, Ch'n.

The Committee on Church Records then reported as follows:

REPORT.

The Committee on Church Records have examined the books of the Churches at Antioch, Linville and Dayton, and find them kept strictly in accordance with the recommendation of Conference. We would earnestly advise that the books of all be sent to the next Conference. Some of them have never yet been examined. Let every church send up its record.

N. B. KIRACOFE,
C. J. RALSTON,
Committee.

The President announced that the Rev. Mr. Barb, of the Lutheran Church, was present. On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, the Rev. Mr. Barb was invited to a seat in Conference.

The time having arrived, Conference closed business to listen to the Annual Address by Rev. N. B. Kiracofe; subject, Religion.

(AFTERNOON SESSION.)

1½ o'clock P. M.

Conference met. The President in the chair.

Religious exercises by Rev. N. B. Kiracofe.

The Committee on Education submitted the following:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education feel, sensibly, the importance of education among our people, we therefore recommend to parents the importance of educating their sons and daughters, and those committed to their care. And for securing this end, we would recommend the School at Suffolk, under the supervision of Professors King and Wright.

We have examined J. C. Williams, of Edom, a candidate for licensure, and recommend that he be licensed to preach the Gospel as a probationer.

We have also examined Rev. C. J. Ralston, of Harrisonburg, who is a candidate for ordination, and recommend that he be ordained.

On motion, Conference took the report up by sections.

Section 1st, was taken up, discussed and adopted.

Section 2d, was taken up, and after a few remarks was received and adopted.

Section 3d, was then taken up, discussed and adopted.

On motion of Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, the report, as a whole, was received and adopted.

By request of the President, the Rev. M. B. Barrett licensed the candidate recommended by the Committee.

On motion of Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, the following was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That to-morrow, 10½ o'clock, A. M., be set apart to ordain the Candidate recommended by the Educational Committee.

On motion, Elders Barrett, Kiracofe and Woods were appointed the Ordaining Presbytery. Elder Barrett to deliver the charge.

The President then announced the Standing Committees for the ensuing year :

Education—Revs. N. B. Kiracofe, G. W. Woods and C. J. Ralston.

Executive—Revs. G. W. Woods, N. B. Kiracofe and C. J. Ralston.

Sabbath Schools—D. F. Lineweaver, David Ralston, sr., Geo. Stilwell and M. Hupp.

Temperance—Revs. C. J. Ralston, N. B. Kiracofe ; Bros. C. A. Hinton and Henry C. Beery.

Home Missions—Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Ephraim Woods and J. C. Williams.

The Committee on Home Missions then reported as follows :

REPORT.

Your Committee on Home Missions beg leave to report that they are at a loss to know what is best for this Conference. We recommend that Conference form a Committee of the Whole and spend the remainder of the time in considering the subject of Home Missions.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Ralston, Conference went into a Committee of the Whole, making Bro. D. F. Lineweaver Ch'n.

After considering the matter, they arose and submitted the following :

Resolved, That we recommend to all the Churches composing this Conference the adoption of some plan to raise $300 for the Pastor of said Churches, and that they be requested to hold quarterly collections to support the missionary cause.

The report was received and adopted.

The Rev. N. B. Kiracofe presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due and hereby tendered to Rev. M. B. Barrett, of the Eastern Virginia Conference, for the efficient services rendered this Conference in the transaction of its business during the present session.

The Rev. G. W. Woods offered the following, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of Conference are due and are hereby tendered to the brethren and friends around Linville Church for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have treated this body during its present session.

The Committee on Religious Exercises then announced the Rev. M. B. Barrett to preach this evening at 7½ o'clock, also tomorrow at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe, Conference then adjourned,

to meet with the church at Antioch, Rockingham County, Va., Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1874.

JESSE BURKHOLDER, *President.*

C. J. RALSTON, *Secretary.*

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-Eighth Annual Session of the N. C. & Va. Christian Conference.

HELD AT

PROVIDENCE, ALAMANCE CO., N. C., NOV. 14, 15, 17, 18, & 19, 1873.

NEW PROVIDENCE, ALAMANCE CO., N. C., }
November 14th, 1873. }

The NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled here to-day, at the appointed hour, in its Forty-Eighth annual session, and was called to order by the former President, Rev. J. W. Wellons.

The standing Secretary called the roll, and the following ministers and lay-delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS.—Thos. J. Fowler, Sol. Apple, A. Apple, H. B. Hayes, A. G. Anderson, J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, W. T. Walker, W. G. Clements, D. A. Long, C. A. Boon, J. N. Farrell, and J. W. Hatch.

LICENTIATES.—S. I. Ellis and J. W. Holt.

DELEGATES.—W. H. Howard, M. C. Winston, M. L. Winston, W. K. Martin, B. J. Blackley, Wm. H. Buntin, Jas. W. Winfree, I. Easom, J. B. Hardee, R. P. Smith, J. B. Davis, J. D. Gunter, J. B. Watson, J. W. Pritchard, J. Neville, Austin Whitsitt, Henry Utley, J. T. Ball, J. D. Hatcher, E. Herndon, A. Stone, L. I. Apple, R. C. Scott, David Bragg, A. A. Farmer, J. W. Boyd, R. Holt, B. A. Ellis, J. H. Moring, S. M. Holt, F. M. Farrell, H. Marshall, Jas. Barker, Wm. Burroughs, Jas. Gilliam, P. R. Harden, W. C. Tarpley, E. R. Dixon.

A quorum being present, Conference proceeded to business. Religious exercises by Rev. H. B. Hayes.

The first business in order was the election of President, which resulted in the election of Rev. J. W. Wellons.

Rev. J. W. Holt was chosen Assistant Secretary.

Revs. W. B. Wellons, C. A. Apple and J. T. Whitley, Fraternal Messengers from the Eastern Va. Christian Conference, were invited to seats in the Conference. These brethren responded in short and appropriate remarks. Bro. Wellons came in the capacity of President of the General Christian Conven-

tion, as well as a Fraternal Messenger from the Eastern Va. Christian Conference.

Rev. A. W. Lineberry, who had been appointed to bear the fraternal greeting of the M. P. Conference of N. C., to this Conference, was invited to a seat in the body. He was introduced by the President, and entertained the Conference with a short address in which he gave the brethren present to understand that his intercourse with the members of the Christian Church had always been pleasant, and that the feeling of the members of his own Conference were very friendly towards the members of this Conference.

While some resolutions, reciprocating the words of kindness from Rev. A. W. Lineberry were being drawn up, Rev. W. S. Long moved that the hour of 2 o'clock P. M. be set apart for the preaching of the annual sermon. Carried.

Rev. W. S. Long then moved that Conference meet each day at 10 o'clock A. M. and adjourn at will. Carried.

Rev. W. T. Walker then offered the following:

WHEREAS, Rev. A. W. Lineberry, of the Methodist Potestant Church, has been sent by his Conference to bear its fraternal greeting to this body, therefore,

Resolved, that this Conference feeling the closeness of the Christian relationship, subsisting between the two bodies, and desiring still closer ties of brotherly love and spiritual union, will send two fraternal messengers to give expression to their feelings at the next annual session of their Conference. Adopted.

On motion of Rev. H. B. Hayes, Revs. W. S. Long and W. T. Walker were appointed fraternal messengers to the M. P. Conference.

On motion of W. K. Martin, the fraternal messengers to the M. P. Conference were instructed to invite that body to send messengers to the next session of the General Christian Convention which convenes at this place in May, 1874.

As Bro. Lineberry had announced that he would have to leave to-morrow, several short addresses were made by various brethren. Rev. W. B. Wellons, concurred heartily in the resolution offered by Rev. W. T. Walker, and expressed an earnest desire that the amicable relations existing betwen the N. C. Christian Conference and the M. P. Conference, as well as all other Evangelical denominations in the land, might be cultivated. He believed that a closer spirtual union would be brought about, and that organic union was possible and desirable. He gave, in the course of his remarks, a very interesting account of the great union meeting which met recently, in the metropolis of the United States, and which he attended. Bros. C. A. Apple, W. S. Long and A. Iseley made remarks, showing the kind feeling which this Church cherished for the denomination rep-

resented by Bro. Lineberry. The President (Rev. J. W. Wellons) gave a very interesting account of his visit to the last annual session of the M. P. Conference in N. C. He said if either of the messengers should be prevented from attending the M. P. Conference, he would go in their place. For this offer, Bro. Lineberry thanked him.

On motion, the President appointed the following Committee on Religious exercises: Rev. W. S. Long, Bros. P. R. Harden, and Austin Whitsitt.

On motion, Rev. M. L. Hurley, of the Deep River Conference, was invited to a seat as a deliberative member. He responded in a few remarks.

The following delegates, who were not present when Conference was organized, then came forward and, after rendering satisfactory excuses for tardiness, had their names enrolled: W. G. Murchison, S. Edwards, T. J. Haskins, Coleman Brann, A. Graham, J. H. Foster, J. Cummings, G. R. Maynard, and Wm. Lynch.

The following ministers rendered satisfactory excuses for tardiness, and had their names enrolled: D. T. Deanes, P. T. Klapp, and J. W. Pinnix.

On motion, Revs. W. G. Clements, J. W. Hatch and D. T. Deanes were appointed a Committee on Church Records.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, the Reports from the Churches were called for. Reports from the following Churches were handed in by their delegates, and read by the Secretary: O'Kelleys' Chapel, Mt. Auburn, Union, Pleasant Hill, (Chatham,) Wake Chapel, Christian Chapel, Antioch, Damascus, New Providence, Hayes' Chapel, Pleasant Union. Pending the reading of the Reports, the hour for preaching arrived.

Rev. W. T. Walker, of Monticello, who had been chosen at the last annual session of the Conference to deliver the annual sermon at this Conference, then delivered an able and earnest discourse from the 2d chapter and 44th verse of Daniel.

The Committee on Religious exercises then reported: Rev. A. Apple to preach at this place to-morrow, 10 o'clock A. M., precisely. Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach at Company's Shops to-night. Adopted.

Conference then adjourned. Religious services by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

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[Saturday Morning.]

Nov. 15th, 1873.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

The hour for preaching having arrived, Rev. A. G. Anderson moved that Brother Apple should not preach, as the Conference was so busily employed with other matters. Carried.

The proceedings of yesterday were read, and after some corrections, were approved.

The remainder of the churches were called upon for reports; the following responded through their delegates: Martha's Chapel, Apple's Chapel, Good Hope, Bethlehem, Mt. Bethel, Concord, Mt. Pisgah, Pleasant Grove, (Va.,) New Elam, Morrisville, Pope's Chapel, Hank's Chapel, Oak Level, Union, (Va.) Shallow Well, Zion, Liberty Hill, Hines' Chapel, and Pleasant Hill.

Bro. John W. McCain then came forward and presented the proceedings of a new church at Brandon's Chapel, which had been organized on the principles of the Christian church, and asked that the new organization be received into this Conference. On motion of Bro. W. K. Martin, the church at Brandon's Chapel was received into the Conference, and the name of the delegate, (Bro. John W. McCain,) enrolled.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, Rev. W. R. Brown, a Fraternal Messenger from the Deep River Conference, was invited to a seat in the Conference. He made appropriate remarks, after his introduction to the members of Conference.

Rev. S. Apple, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Temperance, made the following

REPORT.

Your Committee beg leave to report that we have endeavoured to investigate and consider the subject committed to our charge, and feel constrained to say that we have nothing new to offer, where so much has been said and written already.

Intemperance still prevails to an alarming extent, bearing down in its onward course hosts of victims to temporal and and eternal ruin. And what is greatly to be deplored is the fact that this evil is suffered to exist with so few to oppose its progress.

We are pleased, however to know that there are several organizations, which have for their object the suppression of this vice, and are doing good service.

We hail with pleasure every movement in that direction. Hoping that the day is not far distant when the good of every name and order will unite heartily to educate the public mind in favor of temperance. Where the debasing habits of trafficking and drinking shall be regarded as a low vice, and not to be tolerated in a well regulated society, and especially in the church of God.

After short, and interesting remarks by Revs. S. Apple, J. N. Farrell, A. Apple, and J. T. Whitley, the report was adopted by a rising vote.

Bro. T. J. Haskins then offered the following:

Resolved, that the Conference now go into Committee of the whole for the purpose of considering the question as to how our ministers may obtain a better support and be kept from the necessity of engaging in secular pursuits. Adopted.

The President then called Bro. W. K. Martin to the chair.

Interesting, and earnest addresses were made by Revs. W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons, Bros. T. J. Haskins, J. M. Smith and Rev. W. B. Wellons. These brethren urged the necessity of the ministers giving their whole time to their ministerial duties, and that the members of their charge should give them such a support as will enable them to devote their time entirely to the work of preaching the gospel.

After the rising of the Committee, and the President had resumed his seat in the chair, Bro. W. K. Martin moved that the resolution in regard to the time of meeting of Conference should be reconsidered. Carried.

Rev. D. A. Long then offered the following:

Resolved, that Conference meet each day for the remainder of the present session at 9 o'clock A. M., adjourn at 12 o'clock M., meet again at 1½ o'clock P. M. and adjourn at will.

Carried

On motion, Dr. Herndon was excused from further attending the session of Conference.

The Committee on Religious Exercises then reported the following brethren to preach at Providence to-morrow: Rev. W. B. Wellons 11 o'clock A. M., Rev. T. J. Fowler 2 o'clock P. M., Rev. A. Apple 7 o'clock P. M. Graham, in the Presbyterian Church, Rev. J. T. Whitley, 11 o'clock A. M., Rev. W. B. Wellons, 7 o'clock P. M. To-night at Company Shops, Rev. W. T. Walker; Company Shops to-morrow, Rev. C. A. Apple, 11 o'clock A. M., Rev. W. R. Brown, 7 o'clock P. M.

On motion Conference then adjourned. Religious services by Rev. A. G. Anderson.

(Monday Morning.)

Nov. 17th, 1873.

Conference met. The President in the chair. Religious services by Rev. W. R. Brown, of the Deep River Conference.

The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

Rev. D. A. Long then moved that Va. be stricken from the name of this Conference, and that it hereafter be known as the North Carolina Christian Conference. On motion of Bro. Ball, it was laid on the table.

The Committee on Church Records made a report, which was recommitted.

On motion of Rev. A. Apple, Bro. J. A. Moring was excused to go home.

Rev. D. T. Deanes then offered the following :

WHEREAS, The Church that was organized at Brown's Chapel, Guilford County, N. C., has lost its visibility, And Whereas, a plat of ground had been deeded to Trustees for its benefit previous thereto. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Conference appoint an agent to sell the aforesaid plat of land, and authorize the said agent to pay over the same to the Trustees of the Christian Church at Liberty School House, that it may hereafter be applied for building purposes.

Adopted.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, Rev. D. T. Deanes was appointed the Agent.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the hour of 2 o'clock P. M., was set apart for the election of delegates to the Convention.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, Revs. A. G. Anderson, and J. W. Pinnix were appointed to make such disposition of the church property at Liberty, Caswell Co., N. C., as they may think best for the Conference.

The annual reports from Lebanon and Shallow Ford were read. Delegates J. M. Smith and Jas. Barker had their names enrolled. Licentiate W. W. Staley, of Trinity College, had his name enrolled.

Rev. D. A. Long, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools, presented the following

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to report, that about 20 schools have been in operation within the bounds of this Conference during the past year, with a total number of about 1,000 pupils and teachers. No doubt other schools have been organized that we have not heard from.

We are sorry to say that the S. S. Convention failed to meet this year, as it had been accustomed to meet heretofore, but trust that it will keep up its annual meetings hereafter, and aid in the Sabbath School work.

1. We would recommend that the teachers use black-boards, maps, and, if possible, a more systematic course of instruction.

2. That this Conference consider the propriety of acting in concert with other Conferences in getting up a Sunday School paper of our own.

3. That the various Pastors and Superintendents do what they can to keep up their schools through the whole year.

4. That we consider whether we can carry on the S. S. work successfully, without allowing what is termed secular education to have a large share in the exercises.

After short addresses by Revs. D. A. Long, J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple, W. R. Brown, W. G. Clements, W. B. Wellons and others, the report was adopted.

On motion, Conference adjourned to 1½ o'clock P. M.

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

The President in the chair.

On motion of Rev. W. T. Walker, ministerial reports were

called for. Reports were read from the following: Revs. W. T. Walker, J. W. Hatch, Thos. J. Fowler, A. Iseley; pending the reading of the ministerial reports the hour for the election of delegates to the Convention, arrived. On motion it was postponed until all the reports were read. The following ministers now responded: S. Apple, A. G. Anderson, J. N. Farrell, W. S. Long, C. A. Boon, W. G. Clements. Thos. Truitt, D. A. Long, W. W. Staley, S. I. Ellis, A. F. Iseley, J. W. Holt, J. W. Pinnix, J. W. Wellons, and D. T. Deanes.

The hour for electing delegats having arrived again, it was deemed best to examine the statistics more closely, and on motion, the election was postponed until to-morrow morning.

The Committee on Education then made the following partial report. Your Committee on Education ask leave to make the following partial

REPORT.

WHEREAS, it is desirable that this Conference should have a school of high grade under its contol, and

WHEREAS, The old Graham College lot, with all the appurtenances can be purchased for three thousand dollars, ($3,000.) Therefore be it

1. RESOLVED, That we make an effort to purchase the Graham College lot.

2. That we endeavor to raise, by donations, the amount, ($3,000,) by the next annual Conference.

3. That we ask donations at once.

4. That this Conference elect twelve (12) trustees, who may hold the aforesaid property in trust for this Conference.

5. That Conference appoint a receiver, who shall hold the funds for the school until called for, and that said receiver be required to give bond and security for the money in his hands.

6. That Conference appoint a general agent to collect funds for the school, and report his success through the "Christian Sun."

7. That every minister in this Conference shall hold an educational meeting at all the churches of which they have charge, and at such other places as they may deem proper, and do what they can to collect money for the enterprise.

After addresses by Revs. A. G. Anderson, W. S. Long, A. Iseley, C. A. Apple, W. B. Wellons and others, the six first resolutions were voted on and adopted. The following amounts were pledged at once, by the following ministers: J. W. Pinnix, $100; A. Iseley, $100; W. W. Staley, $100, (two years' time;) W. S. Long, $700; S. I. Ellis, $100.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious services by Rev. C. A. Apple.

[TUESDAY MORNING.]

November 18th, 1873.

Conference met, the President in the chair. Religious services by Rev. D. T. Deanes.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The hour for the election of delegates to the Convention having arrived, the President announced that this Conference was entitled to nine delegates. The election resulted in the choice of Revs. W .S. Long, A. Iseley, A. Apple, J. W. Wellons, and S. Apple. Lay delegates W. K. Martin, P. R. Harden, J. M. Moring, and J. M. Smith.

On motion, the delegates from Salem Chapel, Apples Chapel, and Hayes Chapel were excused from attending Conference, after to-day.

On motion, Hanks' Chapel was chosen as the place for the meeting of the next Conference.

Conference then took up the report on Education, and solicited additional contributors for the purpose of purchasing the Graham College lot. The following individuals pledged themselves for the following amounts :

P. R. Parden, $100 ; Dr. B. A. Sellers, $100 ; J. W. Harden, $100 ; J. W. Wellons, $50; W. K. Martin, one bale of cotton (at what it will bring at the Conference,) The following brethren pledged $33⅓ dollars each ; J. A. Turrentine, B. J. Blackley, and Dr. G. D. Cobb ; T. J. Haskins, $25 ; A. A. Farmer, $25 ; A. Graham, $25, (or one hundred lbs of tobacco.) Geo. R. Maynard, $25 ; Wm. Lynch, $25 ; W. H. Burroughs, $25 ; D. P. Teague, $20 ; Wm. H. Bunting, $20 ; E. R. Dixon, $20 ; T. J. Fowler Jr. $10 ; A. G. Anderson, $10 ; T. J. Fowler Sr. $10 ; D. W. Michael, $10 ; E. K. Iseley, $10 ; C. G. Maynard, $10 ; Miss Pattie Pierce, $5 ; Miss Sue Turner, $5 ; Mrs. Sue Phillips, $5 ; J. H. Foster, $5 ; Mrs. Annie E. Clements, $5 ; B. A. Ellis, $5 ; Miss Virginia C. Winston, $5 ; Mrs. Elizabeth Strader, $5 ; A. F. Iseley, $5 ; J. W. Holt, $5 ; P. T. Klapp, $5; David Bragg, $5; Miss Bettie Whitsitt, $5; Asa G. Fonville, $5; Edwin J. Eley, $5; (paid.)

[Afternoon Session.]

Conference convened,

The Committee on Church Records then submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Church Records beg leave to report :

That we have examined the books from Mt. Auburn, Hayes' Chapel, New Providence, Brandon's Chapel, Damascus, Apple's Chapel, New Elam, Mt. Bethel, Morrisville, Pleasant Grove, Va., Hanks' Chapel, Mt. Zion, and are glad to say that some of the Secretaries have made considerable improvements, though in some of the books

slight corrections could be made, which we think best to point out to the Secretaries or delegates individually.

The delegates from Christian Chapel, Wake Chapel, Pleasant Hill, (Chatham,) Martha's Chapel, Bethel, Pope's Chapel, Pleasant Hill, Shallow Well, Liberty, Salem Chapel and Zion, have given the Committee satisfactory excuse for not bringing their church books.

W. G. CLEMENTS,
D. T. DEANES,
J. W. HATCH,
} Com.

Adopted.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. W. G. Clements was chosen to deliver the next annual sermon before this Conference.

The Committee on Home Missions then made the following partial

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions, beg leave to make the following partial report: Pleasant Grove, N. C., Moore Union, Smyrna, Midway, Mt. Zion, Bethel, Reece's, Rock Hill, Catawba Springs, from some cause, have failed to make reports, as is required by our Form of Government. Also, that the following churches failed to hold their regular quarterly and communion meetings: Union, N. C., Mt. Pisgah and perhaps others, as is required by our Form of Grovernment.

2. That Rev Chastien Allen and P. W. Allen, have not reported themselves in person or by letter for several years.

3. The Committee would recommend that this Conference take steps to so district the churches so as to better supply all of them with ministerial services—and that the churches and ministers be required to submit to the arrangement of the Committee on Home Missions, but the right of appeal belongs alike to churches and ministers

J. W. WELLONS, Ch'n.

After remarks by Revs. J. W. Wellons, W. T. Walker, W. B. Wellons, W. G. Clements and others, a motion to strike out the 3d section, was made. Pending the discussion of this motion, it was decided to make this subject the special business of to-morrow morning.

On motion of Rev. W. T. Walker, Conference went into the election, of Fraternal Messengers. The following were chosen: Deep River Conference—A. Iseley, D. T. Deanes, W. T. Walker. Eastern Va. Conference—J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, A. Apple and W. K. Martin. Valley Va. Conference—A. Apple and J. T. Ball.

The Fraternal Messengers who were appointed at the last session of Conference then reported. Rev. A. Iseley was the only one who had performed the duty assigned him. The others rendered satisfactory excuses for not going.

On motion, Bro. Winston was excused from further attendance.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, the roll of churches was called, and amounts pledged for the purpose of publishing the proceedings of Conference in the Annual.

On motion, the delegates from Hanks' Chapel were excused from further attendance during the present session.

Conference then adjourned, to meet again to-morrow 9 o'clock A. M. Benediction by the President.

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(Wednesday Morning.]

Nov. 19th, 1873.

Conference in session. The President in the chair. Religious services by Rev. A. Apple.

The proceedings of yesterday were read, and after some corrections, approved.

The report on Home Missions was then taken up again. The motion to strike out the 3d section, called forth remarks from Revs. S. Apple, A. Apple, A. G. Anderson, Bros. W. K. Martin, J. M. Smith, Revs. W. S. Long and A. Iseley. Lost.

The report as originally presented was then adopted.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, the Chairman of the Committee on Home Missions was directed to call the names of the churches that were not supplied with preaching, and see who would volunteer to take charge of said churches, if it was agreeable with both churches and ministers. Carried.

The names of the following churches were called: Bethel, Mt. Bethel, Liberty Hill, Midway, Reece's Chapel and Midway. Rev. A. G. Anderson offered to preach for the church at Concord, provided they could secure a pastor. Rev. W. T. Walker promised to supply Hines' Chapel and Salem Chapel; Shallow Well to be supplied by Rev. C. A. Boon; Apple's Chapel to be supplied by Rev. W. T. Walker; Mt. Zion, Rev. A. G. Anderson promised to supply it if possible, and if agreeable with the church; Rock Hill to be looked after by Rev. W. T. Walker; Gants' Chapel to be looked after by Rev. D. T. Deanes. New Berne, unsupplied.

On motion of Bro. P. R. Harden, the names of the churches that have been supplied, and by whom supplied, was then called for and read.

[Afternoon Session.]

The President called the Conference to order.

A resolution of thanks to the citizens about Providence and

the Railroad officials, was then offered by Rev. W. T. Walker. Adopted.

On motion, Revs. W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons and D. A. Long were appointed a Committee to confer with a Committee from the Eastern Va. Conference in regard to a Sunday School paper.

On motion, a Committee of three were appointed to examine the Treasurer's books.

The Committee on Education then reported the following:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education ask leave to submit the following report;

The church at Damascus, Orange Co., N. C, sent us a letter recommending the ordination of Thos. B. Farrar. Bro. Farrar failed to appear before your Committee. We have, therefore, nothing to report in his case.

We have examined M. L. Winston, according to the rules prescribed in the government of our Church. He does not fully meet the requirements of a licentiate; but being well recommended by the church at Pope's Chapel, Granville Co., N. C., and in consideration of all the circumstances in his case, we feel inclined to recommend him for licensure.

Sanders B. Klapp was also examined. He came without any recommendation. He failed to sustain himself in the literary branches. We, therefore, recommend that he continue his studies under the direction of the Board of Education.

A. T. Whitsitt, a member of the Biblical class, was not in school during the year, but will enter school in a short time.

J. W. Holt, a licentiate, sustained himself in school during most of the year, and will, perhaps, enter school again.

We did, according to the direction of last Conference, continue Bros. Staley, Klapp, Ellis and A. F. Iseley in school during the year, and have found it necessary to render them pecuniary aid.

W. W. Staley remained in Trinity College, and his expenses have been, during the year, $172; balance on account for 1872, $40. Total, $212.

Bro. Klapp has been in Graham High School, and his expenses have been $61 70.

Bro. Ellis has been in school, and his expenses have been $69 95. Bro. A. F. Iseley has also been in school, and his expenses have been $45 95. Balance due from last year, $90 14. Total expenses, $479 74. We have received from the treasurer, Rev. A. Iseley, during the year, $312 62, which leaves a balance of $167 12. We would recommend that the residue be pledged by churches and individuals, and that the brethren who have been placed under our care be directed to pursue their studies for the ensuing year without depending on pecuniary aid from this Conference.

W. S. LONG, }
SOL. APPLE, } Com.

Adopted.

Rev. W. S. Long then read a communication from Rev. Mr. Albright, of Ark., asking that a Minister be sent to that State to organize a Christian Church.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to correspond with Bro. Albright.

Bro. P. R. Harden then offered the following:

RESOLVED, That this Conference do recommend that the Committee on Home Missions, report to the next annual Conference as full and complete a map as they may be able to make of a plan of districting this Conference in suitable districts, to more fully supply all the churches with preaching.

Adopted.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, the President was directed to present the certificate of licensure to Bro. Winston, this afternoon.

The following were chosen Trustees of the Graham College: Jas. W. Wellons, J. M. Smith, J. W. Harden, B. A. Sellars, A. Apple, A. Iseley, W. K. Martin, T. J. Haskins, W. S. Long, G. D. Cobb, Albert Graham, A. G. Anderson.

Bro. Jas. A. Turrentine was chosen receiver.

Rev. D. A. Long was appointed General Agent.

The Committee appointed to examine the Treasurers Book, then reported.

REPORT.

Your Committee appointed to audit the account of the Treasurer of the Educational Fund, do report that they have examined the Books of Rev. W. S. Long, which the Treasurer says that in the absence of his book, is correct and complete, and the amount received and paid out is $312 62. All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. R. HARDEN, Ch'n.

Adopted.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the name of Rev. A. Apple was added to the list of Fraternal Messengers to the Eastern Va. Christian Conference.

Revs. J. W. Wellons and A. Apple were chosen Supts. of the Colored Conference for the Conference year.

Bros. T. J. Haskins and A. G. Anderson were chosen alternates to the General Christian Convention.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees:

Executive Committee—A. Iseley, A. G. Anderson and W. S. Long.

Education—W. S. Long, A. G. Anderson and S. Apple.

Home Missions—J. W. Wellons, W. T. Walker and J. W. Hatch.

Sunday Schools—W. W. Staley, W. G. Clements and A. Apple.

Temperance—D. A. Long, C. A. Boon and D. T. Deanes.

The Committee on Home Missions then reported:

REPORT:

Rev. T. J. Fowler, Morrisville.
A. Iseley, Shallow Ford, Pleasant Hill, (N. C.,) Union, (N. C.,) and Bethlehem.
S. Apple, Pleasant Grove, (Va.) and Mt. Pisgah.
A. Apple, O'Kelly's Chapel and Martha's Chapel.
H. B. Hayes, Superannuated.
A. G. Anderson, Mt. Zion and Concord.
D. T. Deanes, Liberty School House, Mt. Bethel and Gant's Chapel.
C. Allen, without work.
J. W. Wellons, Pope's Chapel, Union—Va., Oak Level and Good Hope.
J. N. Farrell, Zion, Wake Chapel and Catawba Spring.
W. H. Franks, Pleasant Union, Pleasant Grove, Smyrna and Pleasant Hill [J.]

W. S. Long, Joint Principal Graham High School, Providence, Carolina Factory and Company Shops.

C. A. Boon, Christian Chapel, Moore Union and Shallow Well.

W. T. Walker, Hines' Chapel, Salem Chapel, Apple's Chapel, and to look after Rock Hill.

P. W. Allen, in the hands of the Committee on Home Missions.

J. W. Hatch, Antioch.

R. C. Tuck, removed to Eastern Va. Christian Conference.

R. G. Tinnen, without work.

W. G. Clements, Hayes' Chapel and New Elam.

Thos. Truitt, Sunday School work at Shallow Ford.

D. A. Long, Hanks' Chapel, Mt. Auburn, Lebanon, Brandon's Chapel, Damascus and Joint Principal of Graham High School.

W. W. Staley, at Trinity College as a student.

S. I. Ellis and A. F. Iseley, at School at Graham.

P. T. Klapp, not regularly in the work.

J. W. Holt, teaching.

J. W. Pinnix, without work.

The following Churches were left in the hands of the Committee on Home Missions: Liberty Hill, Reece's Chapel and Midway.

J. W. WELLONS, Ch'n.

Adopted.

Bro. M. L. Winston was then presented by the Chairman of Committee on Education, and his Certificate of Licensure was presented to him by the President in due form.

On motion of Rev W. S. Long, Conference spent 20 minutes in religious exercises.

On motion of Bro. W. K. Martin, Conference then adjourned, to meet at Hanks' Chapel, Chatham Co., N, C. on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in Nov., 1873. Religious services by Rev. S. Apple.

J. W. WELLONS, *Pres't.*

D. A. LONG, *Sect'y.*

J. W. HOLT, *Asst. Sect'y.*

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

C. A. Boon—Had charge of four churches, preached regularly. Received 36 into the fellowship of the church.

J. N. Farrell—Had charge of the churches at Catawba Spring and Wake Chapel. Received 35 into the church.

J. W. Pinnix—Preached regularly at Byrd's School House. Assisted in several protracted meetings.

W. S. Long—Had the pastoral charge of two churches; was associate principal of the Graham High School.

D. T. Deanes—Had the charge of one church. I could not attend the protracted meeting on account of bad health.

A. F. Iseley—Have been at Graham High School during the year. Preached about seventeen times.

W. G. Clements—Had the pastorol charge of five churehes, Preached about 120 sermons.

J. W. Wellons—Preached to five churches. Received about 56 members into the church.

S. I. Ellis—Have been a student at the Graham High School. Taught school three months. Preached 24 times.

Thos. Truitt—Labored in the Sabbath School work; preached occasionally; sorry that sickness prevented me from attending Conference.

A. G. Anderson—Had three regular appointments; attended several protracted meetings; had to give part of my time to secular pursuits.

S. Apple—Preached regularly during the year; attended several protracted meetings.

A. Iseley—Kept up a regular appointment at four churches; was greatly blessed at a number of protracted meetings.

D. A. Long—Pastor of three churches, and Associate principal Graham High School.

T. J. Fowler—Preached at Hanks' Chapel, Lockville and Morrisville; was only kept away one time by sickness.

J. W. Hatch—Had the pastoral charge of two churches; preached occasionally at other places.

W. W. Staley—Have been a student at Trinity College; preached occasionally.

W. T. Walker—Had the pastoral charge of three churches; assisted in other meetings.

J. W. Holt—Spent six months at Graham High School; have been teaching for a few months past.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. of communicants,	Paid Pastor.	For Education.	Paid for Other purposes.	Whole amount. Paid.	Value of church Property.	Sunday Schools.	No. Papers taken.
O'Kelly's Chapel,	A. Apple,	8	1	1	1		141	$150	12	$ 40	$203	$700	1	60
New Elam,	W. G. Clements,	12					83	46¾			33	500	1	50
Hines' Chapel,	W. T. Walker,	20					60	60	3		63	500		
Mt. Bethel,	" "					1	31	22	3		25	8		
Liberty Hill,	J. W. Wellons,	7			2	3	82	60	5	3¾	68¾	50	1	60
Pleasant Hill, C.,	John W. Hatch,		1		2		64				300		1	50
Pleasant Grove (V	S. Apple,	4	1	2			69	76	5	55	128½	1500	1	60
Concord,	A. G. Anderson						55		5			400		
Christian Chapel,	W. G. Clements	13		1		2	152	75		5	80	400	1	60
Shallow Well,	C. A. Boon,	27					99	75	5	20	100	400	1	30
Shallow Ford,	A. Iseley,				4		51	26				300		
Liberty S. H.,	D. T. Deanes,						16							
Mt. Pisgah,	S. Apple,						25							
Pleasant Union,	W. H. Franks,	14				2	33	13¼					1	70
Moore Union,	C. A Boon,						25							
Providence,	W. S. Long,	35	3	1	2		304	200	20	2½	515	3000	1	100
Catawba Spring,	J. N. Farrell,						87							
Mt. Auburn,	W. S. Long,	4			3		67	160		7½	167½	1000	1	30
Smyrna,	W. H. Franks,						27							
Union, Va.,	J. W. Wellons,	34			4	3	128	125	5	3¾	134	800		
Antioch,	J. W. Hatch,	2		1	2		46	31½	5	1½	37¾	200		
Hank's Chapel,	T. J. Fowler,	6	2		2		156	100	10	25	218	1000	1	83
Pleasant Hill, (J.)	W. G. Clements						56							
Morrisville,	" "	3					12	25		2¼	245	400	1	
Oak Level,	J. W. Wellons,	3					72	55		10		250	1	
Hayes' Chapel,	W. G. Clements	4			1		48	60			70	300	1	60
Mt. Zion,	M. L. Hurley,						36							
Damascus,	D. A. Long,	6	2	4	3		73	100	10	10½	120½	1000	1	60
Lebanon,	" "	4	5				39	130	10		140	500	1	30
Apple's Chapel,	A. Iseley,	12		1			114	16¾	5		21¾	300		
Good Hope,	J. W. Wellons,	3					55	30	1¾		39	500		
Pope's Chapel,	" "	6	2		2	1	215	100	10	5	115½	500	1	75
Bethlehem,	A. Iseley,	3			2		125	35	5		40	300	1	47
Salem Chapel,	W. T. Walker,	7	2		3		115	55		20	62	500	1	40
Martha's Chapel,	A. Apple,						27	35	5		40	600		
Brandon's Chapel	D. A. Long,						12						1	50
Union N. C,	A. Iseley,	7	2		2		236	63			63	1000	1	55
Wake Chapel,	J. N. Farrell,	26			1		144							
Pleasant Hill,	W. G. Clements	7					62	14					1	30
Bethel,							40							
Midway,							20							
Reece's Chapel,							25							
Rock Hill,							7							
Pleasant Grove, C							40							
Gant's Chapel,							19							

MINUTES

OF THE

DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

PARK'S CROSS ROADS, RANDOLPH CO., N. C., Oct. 2d, 3d & 4th, 1873.

PARK'S X ROADS, RANDOLPH CO., N. C., }
October 2*d*, 1873. }

The DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met at this place today, in its ninth annual session.

The Conference was called to order by the Rev. W. R. Brown, President of last session. The blessings of Almighty God were invoked upon the body by the President, before entering upon business.

The roll of ministers and churches, with the names of the delegates, was called.

ELDERS PRESENT—W. R. Brown, W. M. Craven, W. W. Lawrence, and M. L. Hurley.

ABSENT—Joseph Albright, A. S. Nelson and John S. Lawrence.

LICENTIATES PRESENT—John A. Scott, H. A. Albright and William Brady.

ABSENT—William Dickens and D. B. McLeod.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES—Brown's Chapel: Nicholas Nalls and Enoch Freeman. Park's Cross Roads: Oliver Vestal and Calvin Stout. Pleasant Grove: A. W. Leonard, B. S. Carness, Orlando Crady, C. H. Welsh and Thos. F. Ward. Pleasant Ridge: A. J. Williams, J. J. Allen and Jackson Craven. Shady Grove: E. C. Martin and Ira Freeman. Shiloh: H. T. Moffitt, Charles Moffitt and W. T. Fox. Union Grove: R. F. Brown, Eli Brown and B. S. Scott. New Providence: John Britt and C. D. Williamson. New Center: Enoth Latham. New Salim, Oldham's Grove and Cool Springs not represented.

A quorum found to be present, Conference proceeded to elect, by ballot, a President and Vice President for the present session. Elder John S. Lawrence was elected President, and Bro. H. T. Moffitt Vice-President, and Elder W. R. Brown was chosen Assistant Secretary.

On motion of Bro. Oliver Vestal, the annual address was called for: whereupon Bro. J. A. Scott, appointed at last session, proceeded to address the Conference, his subject being "Work for the Church." The address was interesting and instructive, and delivered with much earnestness and candor.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow at 10 o'clock A. M.

Religious exercises by Rev. M. L. Hurley.

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[Friday Morning.]

Oct. 3rd, 10 o'clock.

Conference convened. The Vice-President presiding. Religious exercises by Rev. W. W. Lawrence.

The minutes of yesterday were read and adopted.

Bro. William Dicken appeared and took his seat.

On motion of Rev. M. L. Hurley, a Committee on Supplies was appointed by the Chair, composed of one from every church represented by delegate. The committee appointed consisted of Brethren Oliver Vestal, Charles Moffitt, Orlando Brady, A. J. Williams, E. C. Martin, Enoch Freeman, R. F. Brown, C. D. Williamson, and Enoch Latham.

W. W. Hayworth arrived and took his seat as one of the delegates from Shiloh.

The Committee on Temperance made the following

REPORT.

Your Committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of Temperance, desire to report that we have meditated much upon this very important subject; and knowing very well the efforts which have heretofore been made upon it, we feel, somewhat, at a loss to know what to say, or how to shape this report so as to gain the much desired end When we look around us, this conclusion is forced upon us, that the many resolutions that this and similar bodies have acted upon and adopted, have not accomplished all that we desire. Yet, we feel gratified that our efforts have not been entirely fruitless; some good has been accomplished.

But our work is not yet done; the fell-monster intemperance, the great enemy to christianity, is yet unconquered; is not yet driven from the field. We still see ravages and devastations of intemperance abroad in our land. The home circle is invaded by its heinous influence; the peace and quiet of society are greatly disturbed; the cause of religion and of God is much injured; and the whole church of Christ is bleeding by its ruthless inroads. Thousands upon thousands are falling yearly into a drunkard's grave—into a drunkard's hell. For we are assured by the Scriptures of inspiration, "that no drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of God."

The many evils arising from the baneful effects of intemperance are past enumeration; and its ultimate results beggar description. In view of the foregoing facts we most earnestly recommend the following for your consideration and adoption

Whereas, Drunkenness is forbidden by the Holy Scriptures in the strongest and most unequivocal terms. And, whereas, moderate drinking leads directly to intoxication and drunkenness. Therefore,

1. Resolved, That no person who is in the habitual use of ardent spirits, as a

beverage, shall be permitted to hold or exercise ministerial license by authority of this Conference.

2. Resolved, That no individual church should allow the manufacture or traffic in ardent spirits, in any way, by its members.

3. Resolved, That we, as a religious body, look upon the use of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, as only evil in its effects and consequences, and highly derogatory to christian character, and unbecoming the humble followers of Jesus. And we, therefore, most earnestly discountenance their use in this form, and recommend, affectionately, total abstinence, as safe and righteous.

Respectfully submitted. H. A. ALBRIGHT, Ch'n.

After the reading of the above report, it was, by motion, laid on the table until the opening of Conference to-morrow morning.

On motion, Bro. Eli Brown was added to the Temperance Committee.

On motion, the Chair appointed the following as a Committee on Statistics: B. S. Scott, C. H. Welch and W. W. Hayworth.

On motion, Bro. J. A. Scott was relieved from the Committee on Sabbath Schools, and Bro. J. J. Allen was appointed to fill the vacancy.

On motion, the Rev. John W. Heath, of the M. P. Church, was cordially invited to a seat in Conference as a Fraternal Messenger from that Church to this body.

On motion, Rev. M. L. Hurley was elected by Conference to deliver the annual sermon before this body at its next session.

On motion, Conference proceeded to elect a Standing Conference Committee for the coming Conference year. The election resulted in the choice of Revs. J. S. Lawrence, W. R. Brown and W. M. Craven, and Bros. H. T. Moffitt and Oliver Vestal.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, Rev. Alfred Isley, Fraternal Messenger from the N. C. and Va. Christian Conference, was welcomed to a seat in this Conference. After some appropriate remarks, Bro. Iseley advanced and took his seat.

On motion, Conference adjourned to re-assemble at half after 1 o'clock P. M.

[Afternoon Session.]

1½ o'clock P. M.

The Vice-President presiding.

On motion of Bro. J. A. Scott, the hour of 2½ o'clock this afternoon was set apart to hear the Rev. John W. Heath, of the M. P. Church, express the fraternal feelings existing between that Church and the Christian Church.

On motion, the letters from the various churches were called

for and read. The news from the most of the churches was encouraging.

On motion of Bro. C. H. Welch, the place and time of the next session of this Conference were taken into consideration. After some deliberation among the brethren, Pleasant Grove was chosen as a suitable place for its next session, and on Thursday, 12 o'clock M., before the second Sunday in October, 1874, as a proper time for Conference to convene.

Two and a half o'clock P. M. Conference suspended business to hear the fraternal message delivered by Bro. Heath, of the M. P. Church. His remarks were warm, earnest and expressive of christian love, harmony and union.

On motion of Rev. M. L. Hurley, Conference went into the election of Fraternal Messengers to visit the M. P. Conference and the N. C. and Va. Christian Conference. Rev. M. L. Hurley and Bro J. A. Scott were elected Fraternal Messengers to the M. P. Conference, and also, Revs. W. R. Brown, M. L. Hurley, and Bro. J. H. Scott were elected to visit the N. C. and Va. Christian Conference.

On motion, Revs. W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, Bros. H. T. Moffitt and Oliver Vestal were elected as delegates from this Conference to attend the Christian Convention to be held in May next, at Graham, N. C.

On motion, it was decided that those who act as Itinerants should make a written report of their labors to Conference, at its annual sessions. Those who are without a charge are required to make a verbal report of their labors.

On motion, those ministers who were left without any charge last year, proceeded to make a verbal statement of their labors since the close of last Conference.

The majority of them reported that they had been actively engaged in the Master's service during the year, and felt that some good had been accomplished.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M. Religious services by Rev. Alfred Iseley.

[Saturday Morning.]

Oct. 4th, 9 o'clock A. M.

Conference met. The President presiding.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The Temperance report, which was received yesterday, laid on the table and made the special order of this hour, was taken up. After an animating discussion by Rev. Alfred Iseley and the Rev. John W. Heath, of the M. P. Church. and many of

the brethren, the report was adopted, after rejecting the second resolution, and inserting in its stead the following:

Resolved, 2d, That no church ought to encourage the manufacture or traffic of ardent spirits, as a beverage, by its members.

On motion, Conference adjourned for preaching by the Rev. J. W. Heath, to re-assemble at 1 o'clock P. M.

Bro. Heath preached an excellent discourse from 2 Tim., 4 chap. 2 verse.

[Afternoon Session.]

1 o'clock.

Conference convened. The President presiding.

Bro. B. W. Phillips, delegate from Salem, arrived and took his seat.

Revs. W. R. Brown and J. S. Lawrence reported their labors during the past year, as follows:

W. R. Brown—I have preached about one hundred sermons; seven funeral sermons; held four protracted meetings, and aided in others; married six couples.

J. S. Lawrence—I have given my whole time to the work of the ministry since the Spring; have preached one hundred and twenty-four sermons; held nine protracted meetings. My labors have been blessed, I think. The churches under my care are in a prosperous condition.

The Committee on Statistics made their report, which was, on motion, received and adopted.

The Committee on Education submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education ask leave to submit the following report:

We find no pressing necessity for the ordination of any person at present. We have examined Bro. Peter P. Humble, and are satisfied with his qualifications; and we would, therefore, respectfully recommend him to this Conference for licensure. We would, also, recommend Bro. Ira Freeman to the Church at Shady Grove, for license to exercise his gift as the good Spirit may direct.

We would also state, that at present, we have no High School within the bounds of this Conference. We would, therefore, recommend the High School at Graham, conducted by the Revs. W. S. and D. A. Long, to the favorable consideration of our people, who have children to educate.

W. R. BROWN, Ch'n.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following report. After some discussion by the brethren, the report was adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools would report: That, after due examination, we find that this great and noble cause is steadily gaining ground. The Sunday School work is a great and momentous one—one that stands second to the Gospel of Christ, to christianize the youth of our land. Every live christian is praying (or should) for the rising generation; that those who are coming after us may be the disciples of Christ—that they may be useful here and happy hereafter.

To effect this great end, something must be done. Parents must discharge their

duty toward their children. The Sunday School, though ever so useful, will not lessen the duty or obligation of parents, but it comes in as a helper. The Church also has an important work to perform. One of the chief ways by which the church can perform this duty is by the means of the Sabbath School. Indeed, the Sabbath School becomes the very nursey of the church. The christian world has already recognized these great truths, hence we see the mighty efforts which are made in the advancement of this glorious cause.

We are glad to be able to report that our people are becoming more and more earnest and interested in the cause of the Sunday School. Schools of this character are now established at all of the churches in the bounds of this Conference. We feel much encouraged at the prosperity of this cause in our midst.

Respectfully submitted. JOSEPH J. ALLEN, Ch'n

The Committee on Ministerial Supplies reported as follows, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Ministerial Supplies, beg leave to make the following report:

John S. Lawrence to preach at Shady Grove, Brown's Chapel, New Providence, New Center, Cool Springs, and at other points out side, with a view to enlarge our borders.

M. L. Hurley, at Union, Pleasant Ridge and Park's X Roads.

J. A. Scott, at Shiloh and Pleasant Grove.

William Brady to labor wherever he sees fit.

Salem and Oldham's Grove to be supplied by M. L. Hurley, J. A. Scott and J. S. Lawrence.

H. A. Albright to labor at Union Grove and Shiloh.

W. R. Brown and W. W. Lawrence left without a charge, at their own requests.

D. B. McLeod to assist J. S. Lawrence at Shady Grove.

W. M. Craven and William Dicken to labor wherever they think best.

Respectfully submitted. OLIVER VESTAL, Ch'n.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, the thanks of Conference were tendered the brethren and friends in the vicinity of Park's Cross Roads for the hospitable manner in which they entertained the members of this body.

On motion, the President appointed the following Committees, to report at the next session of Conference:

Education—W. R. Brown, M. L. Hurley and W. W. Lawrence.

Temperance—Samuel H. Way, W. W. Lawrence and Thos. F. Ward.

Sabbath Schools—H. A. Albright, J. J. Allen and B. S. Caoness.

While Rev. Alfred Iseley was with us he preached two most excellent sermons; one on Saturday, 2 o'clock P. M., the other on Sunday, 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion, Conference adjourned, to meet with the church at

Pleasant Grove, on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1874.

Closing religious exercises by Rev. M. L. Hurley.

JOHN S. LAWRENCE, *Pres't.*
W. T. MOFFITT, *Vice-Pres't.*

H. A. ALBRIGHT, *Sect'y.*
W. R. BROWN, *Asst. Sect'y*

N. B.—After Conference closed the meeting continued for several days, and resulted in the conversion of many precious souls and in strengthening the church. To God be the glory.

Secretary.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Received.	Removed.	Withdrawn.	Expelled.	Died.	No. Communicants.
Pleasant Grove		24			2	148.
Park's Cross Roads		3		3	1	58.
Shiloh	5		1		...	107.
Pleasant Ridge				1	...	94.
Shady Grove	9				...	55.
Oldham's Grove					...	17.
Brown's Chapel	3				1	31.
Salem		3			...	8.
Cool Springs	2				...	18.
New Providence	3			1	...	46.
New Center					...	16.
Union Grove					...	59.
Total	22	30	1	5	4	657.

B. S. SCOTT, Ch'n.

MINUTES

OF THE

Georgia and Alabama Christian Conference,

HELD AT

NEW HOPE CHURCH, CHAMBERS CO., ALA., Oct. 4th, 5th & 6th, 1873.

NEW HOPE, CHAMBERS CO., ALA., }
October 4, 1873. }

The GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met, pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by Rev. James D. Elder, the President of last session being absent.

On motion, Rev. James D. Elder was elected President, and James L. Neese was elected Secretary.

Roll was called and responded to as follows:

ELDERS—James D. Elder, C. W. Greggs, and M. J. Sorrell.

LICENTIATES—W. J. Manning, G. M. Hurst and Jas. L. Neese.

From some unknown cause Revs Jubilee Smith, W. R. Leger and J. M. Wharton were absent.

The following Churches were represented by their delegates: New Hope—J. Stephens, T. H. Elder. Liberty—G. B. Knight, Wm. Collier, T. R. East and Wm. Fowler. Christian Union—Jas. F. Holiway. Pleasant Grove—G. Willingham, D. Childers and J. T. Willingham. Antioch—James Pierce and Jas. Taylor. Antioch and Christian Union petitioned for membership in this Conference and were received.

The President then appointed the following Committees:

On Standing of the Churches—G. Willingham, Wm. Collier and Joseph Stephens.

On Standing of the Ministry—T. H. Elder, Jas. Pierce and Jas. Holiway.

On Sabbath Schools—D. Childers, Z. East, Wm. Fowler.

On Periodicals—J. L. Neese, G. M. Hurst and G. B. Knight.

On Temperance—M. J. Sorrell, J. L. Neese and J. Stephens.

On Education—C. W. Greggs, M. J. Sorrell and G. M. Hurst.

Conference then adjourned to meet Monday, Oct. 6th, at 8 o'clock A. M.

MONDAY MORNING, Oct. 6th, 1873.

Conference met, according to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. Jas. D. Elder.

On motion, the reports were called for. The Committee on the Standing of the Churches made the following

REPORT.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report that we have, through the delegates and examining of church letters, found all that are represented in a prosperous condition. WM. COLLIER, Ch'n.

The Committee on the Standing of the Ministry submitted the following

REPORT.

We, Your Committee, beg leave to report that we, by examination, find all the Ministers present in good standing and in discharge of duty.

JAS. PIERCE, Ch'n.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report that Sabbath Schools have been established in most of our Churches; and would recommend that all of our Ministers should urge their establishment in all the churches, as great good can be done for our cause by this means. Z. R. EAST, Ch'n.

The Committee on Temperance submitted the following

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report that this monster evil is doing great injury to the cause of Christianity, and recommend that all of our members should discontinue the use of intoxicating drinks.

J. L. NEESE, Ch'n.

The Committee on Periodicals made the following

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Periodicals, beg leave to report that our denominational organ, the "Christian Sun," fully meets our wants, and we hereby endorse it and its editor, Rev. W. B. Wellons, and most cheerfully recommend it to ministers and professors of Christianity everywhere, of all denominations.

G. M. HURST, Ch'n.

The Committee on Examination presented the following

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Examination, report, that we have carefully examined Bro. G. M. Hurst, and would recommend that he be set apart as an Elder in the church. J. D. ELDER, Ch'n.

The Committee on Education submitted the following

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Education, would recommend the Suffolk Collegiate Institute of Suffolk, Va., and the Graham High School of Graham, N. C., as worthy of patronage by our denomination. C. W. GREGGS, Ch'n.

Conference then adjourned until 3 o'clock P. M. Prayer by the President.

During recess a sermon was delivered by Jas. L. Neese, from Mat. 12 chap. 39 verse.

3 o'clock P. M.

Conference met. Prayer by the President.

The following Ministerial Reports were received:

REPORTS.

James D. Elder—I have kept up four regular appointments during the Conference year; I have preached for New Hope, Pleasant Grove and Liberty, and constituted Antioch church, and I have been abundantly blessed, also the churches have been greatly revived. I have, during the year, preached one hundred and two sermons; delivered thirty-nine exhortations; married five couples; baptised fifty-four; traveled 695 miles. Surely the Lord has done great things for me, whereof I am glad, and to His name be all the honor and glory.

C. W. Gregg—I have kept up one regular appointment and constituted one church and baptised three, and I feel that I have been blessed in my labors.

G. M. Hurst—I have been laboring with our own churches to some extent, and with churches of other denominations.

M. J. Sorrell—I have been preaching most of the year with our churches, and also with other denominations.

On motion, Conference elected Revs. Jas. D. Elder, G. M. Hurst, C. W. Gregg, corresponding delegates to the Congregationalist State Conference.

On motion, our next Annual Conference was appointed to be held at Liberty church, Randolph County, Ala., embracing the first Sabbath in Oct., 1874. On motion, it was ordered that the characteristic difference between the Christian Church and the Campbelite or Disciple Church, as set forth by Rev. Jubilee Smith in the minutes of 1870, be published again in the Annual.

On motion, it was ordered that the minutes of this Conference be published with the Christian Annual.

On motion, the Presbytery assembled, and our Bro. G. M. Hurst was set apart to the office of an Elder in the Christian Church.

On motion, it was ordered that we render our thanks to the brethren and friends of this vicinity for their kindness and hospitality during our session in General Conference.

Remarks.

The Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. M. J. Sorrel, from John 20 chap. 31 verse.

The Annual sermon was delivered by Rev. Jas. D. Elder, Dan'l 13-4.—"Knowledge shall be increased."

The preaching was earnest; the congregations unusually large, and much interest seemed to be taken in the union movement among the Christians of different orders.

J. D. ELDER, *President.*

JAMES L. NEESE, *Sect'y.*

CONFERENCES OF COLORED PERSONS.

The North Carolina Conference was organized in the city of Raleigh, in 1866, and was, perhaps, the first Conference of any denomination, composed wholly of colored persons, organized in the South after the close of the war and the emancipation of the colored race. Rev. W. B. Wellons, President of the General Christian Convention, and Rev. H. B. Hayes and Rev. J. W. Wellons, were present to aid in the organization of the Conference. Rev. Wm. M. Hayes was the first President.

The last session of this body was held at Christian Chapel, in Wake county. Rev. Brutus Young was chosen President, and S. L. Long, Secretary. Rev. A. Apple, Rev. J. W. Wellons and Rev. W. G. Clements visited the Conference during its session.

The Conference decided to assess the membership of the Churches for a sufficient amount to put a High School at Franklinton in operation.

Fraternal Messengers were received from a Conference in the Eastern part of the State, on the Christian platform.

It was decided that the body in session should hereafter be called the WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE, and the new Conference be called the EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE. The minutes of the two Conferences were ordered to be printed in pamphlet form, together.

The dividing line between the two Conferences, is the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

The following are the names and the Post Office address of the Ministers of the two North Carolina Conferences.

W. M. Hayes, Raleigh,
R. I. Johnson, Raleigh,
Jackson Jeffreys, Raleigh,
John Kent, Apex,
John Smith, New Hill,
Brutus Young, Ridgeway,
Joseph Adams, Morrisville,
R. Preddy, Slopdown,
L. McCullen, Durhamsville, Tenn.
Samuel Foy, New Berne,
Alfred Pettyford, Plymouth,
Joseph Whitley, Pantego,
Hason Pool, ———
Oscar Hinton, ———

Exum Green, ———
J. S. Harris, Raleigh,
J. R. Watson, Selma,
Nash Horton, New Hill,
Thomas Bullock, Manson,
Zimri Graham, McCray's Store,
H. Hazel, Durhamsville, Tenn.,
R. McKinsey, Bay River,
Joseph Mann, New Berne,
George Fisher, Murfreesboro,
George Jones, Plymouth,
Jesse Gurganus, ———
Frederick Respass, ———

The next session of the Eastern North Carolina Conference

will be held at Spring Green Church, Washington county, to convene on Thursday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1874.

The next session of the Western North Carolina Conference will convene at White Grove, Warren County, N. C., on Wednesday before the 2d Sunday in November, 1874.

VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

The Ministers and Delegates from the Christian churches, composed of colored persons, met at Mt. Ararat, Nansemond county, on Thursday, the 11th of December, 1873, for the purpose of organizing a Conference. Rev. J. N. Manning and Rev. E. W. Beale, were present the first day, and Rev. W. B. Wellons, on the second and third day, to aid in the organization. Rev. Justin Copeland was chosen President, and Elisha A. Copeland, Secretary.

Two Elders, six Licentiates and six Churches, compose the Conference.

The following are the Ministers and their Post Office address:

Justin Copeland, Holy Neck,
Lewis Darden, South Quay,
Jesse Jones, Norfolk,
Henry Hamlin, Wakefield,
Charles Anderson, Norfolk,
Talitha Briggs, Holy Neck,
Jacob Sketer, Suffolk,
Armstead Riddick, Gatesville, N. C.

The next session of the Conference will be held at Zion, Nansemond county, to convene on Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1874.

The proceedings of these three Conferences have been published in pamphlet form and bound together, for distribution among the churches.

The colored Ministers are laboring very earnestly to propagate the principles of the CHRISTIANS among their own race. While most of them are deficient in education, they are very ready to receive instruction, and those white ministers who have visited the Conferences of the colored people, feel quite hopeful of their success.

1873
1874

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Sunday School Convention,

of the Eastern Virginia Conference.

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION.

SUFFOLK, VA., May 20, 1873.

The Sunday School Convention of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference assembled here to-day in its sixth annual session.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. W. B. Wellons, the President, called the Convention to order, and the Choir sang "Our Sabbath Home," from "Pure Gold."

An address of welcome was made by the Pastor of the Suffolk Church in behalf of the Church and School. Welcome was also extended to the members and visitors in a beautiful motto in evergreen above the pulpit, "WORKING FOR JESUS," expressed the object of the Convention.

Superintendent D. B. Dunbar, of the Suffolk School opened the exercises according to "Apple's Manual," the whole congregation responding.

A fervent and appropriate prayer was then offered by the oldest Superintendent in the body, Brother John Oberry, of Holy Neck.

The Choir then sang another piece from "Pure Gold."

The President announced with regret the absence of Rev. C. A. Apple, the Secretary, on account of sickness. In his absence Rev. J. N. Manning was chosen Secretary *pro tem.*

The roll was called and the following ministers answered to their names: W. B. Wellons, M. B. Barrett, J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley. E. W. Beale.

Rev. R. C. Tuck, of the North Carolina Conference, having taken pastoral work in this Conference, was enrolled as a member of this Convention.

Reports were handed in and read from the schools at Suffolk, Berea, (Nansemond) Antioch, Oakland, Berea, (Norfolk,) Holy Neck, Sunnyside, Mt. Carmel, Bethlehem, Cypress, Walnut Grove, Liberty Spring, Spring Hill, Barrett's, Elm Grove, Ivor, and Cherry Grove.

A new School at Sharon, Camden County, N. C., was admitted to membership on its own application.

The following members were found to be present:

Suffolk.—Superintendent D. B. Dunbar; J. T. Nurney, V. S. Kilby, Joseph King, B. F. Cutchin, J. H. Gardner, R. C. Wells, A. M. Channell. *Berea*, (Nansemond).—Superintendent Elisha Everett; J. Edwin Wright, Willis J. Lee. *Antioch.*—Assistant Superintendent J. M. Gay; R. J. Eley, J. W. Hall, M. H. Watkins, S. A. Eley, A. W. Ballard, B. C. Roberts, T. J. Clements. *Oakland.*—Superintendent B. C. Eley; Jonas Walraven, C. T. Minton. *Holy Neck.*—Superintendent John Oberry; P. H. Lee, R. C. Everett. *Sunnyside.*—Superintendent J. T. Harris. *Mount Carmel.*—Superintendent I. W. Duck; G. M. D. Watkins, B. T. Carr, M. Carr. *Bethlehem.*—Superintendent R. Copeland; Wm. Eley, John R. Archer. *Cypress.*—Superintendent W. H. Eley; W. H. Brinkley, L. E. Saunders, C. C. Riddick. *Walnut Grove.*—Superintendent Jos. A. Barrett; Geo. W. Eley, Geo. W. Whitehead. *Liberty Spring.*—Superintendent A. J. Rabey; H. H. Byrd, John S. Copeland. *Spring Hill.*—Superintendent H. T. West. *Elm Grove.*—Superintendent Wm. D. Wright; C. P. Norfleet, M. H. Britt, Wiley Rawls. *Ivor.*—B. F. Bell. *Cherry Grove.*—Superintendent John R. Bradshaw: John F. Uzzell, John W. Roberts.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

PRESIDENT.—Rev. W. B. Wellons.

VICE-PRESIDENT.—Rev. J. N. Manning.

The Executive Council was filled with Brothers P. H. Lee, of Holy Neck, I. W. Duck, of Mount Carmel, and B. C. Eley, of Oakland.

Brothers Wm. Eley, John Oberry, and Jonas Walraven, were appointed a committee on Finance.

The body decided to meet each day at 9 A. M., and adjourn at 1½ P. M., meet again at 3 P. M., and adjourn at will.

The next item on the printed programme was an Essay on "The Lesson of the Sabbath," by Rev. C. A. Apple. On account of the absence of the essayist, the subject was deferred until to-morrow.

The Choir then sang "Anywhere with Jesus."

Rev. J. T. Whitley read a paper on the "Qualifications of a Good Superintendent."

Rev. R. C. Tuck made some remarks on the above topic, and was followed by Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. M. B. Barrett, and Rev. E. W. Beale, in interesting speeches. Rev. W. B. Wel-

lons addressed the body on the same subject, recommending enthusiasm in the work.

The Choir sang "Sabbath Home," and the Convention took a recess for dinner.

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

The President called the Convention to order and the Choir sang a beautiful opening piece.

The Superintendents of the various Schools were called upon for statements of the condition of their schools.

The following made responses: Holy Neck—Brother John Oberry. Antioch—John M. Gay. Bethlehem—R. Copeland. Mt. Carmel—I. W. Duck. Spring Hill—H. T. West. Berea, (Nansemond)—E. Everett. Damascus—Geo. J. Costen. Liberty Spring—A. J. Rabey. Sunnyside—J. T. Harris. Suffolk—D. B. Dunbar. Walnut Grove—J. A. Barrett. Elm Grove Wm. D. Wright. Cherry Grove—Jno. W. Roberts.

Several members engaged in an informal discussion on the propriety of keeping up the exercises of the country schools during the winter.

After singing by the Choir, the body adjourned.

[SECOND DAY.]

May 21, 1873.

The Convention met this morning and was called to order by the President.

The Choir sang the "Lord's Prayer," and prayer was offered by Rev. E. W. Beale.

The roll was called and proceedings of the preceding day were read and approved.

Rev. C. A. Apple arrived and took his seat.

Delegates G. D. Debaum, and L S. Chapin from Providence, and Mills T. Darden from Holy Neck, arrived and had their names recorded.

A new School at Spike's Spring, Gates county, N. C., was admitted to membership, and Brothers W. McGoodman, Superintendent, and E. J. Freeman, were invited to seats as the representatives of the School.

The Convention, by a unanimous vote, decided to hold its next annual session at Antioch, Isle of Wight Co., Va.

The body then took up the question whether or not a Sunday School paper shall be published for the schools of the denomination.

The matter was discussed by Revs. Whitley, Wellons, Apple and others, after which Revs. C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley, and E. W. Beale were appointed a committee to confer with

other Sunday School organizations with regard to the propriety and practicability of establishing such a paper.

Rev. J. T. Whitley read an essay on "Bible Classes," which elicited timely and forcible speeches from Revs. C. A. Apple, J. N. Manning and W. B. Wellons.

The Choir then sang "Precious Name,"

Rev. J. N. Manning was permitted to make an announcement with regard to a proposed House of Worship in the city of Norfolk. This he did in some interesting and amusing remarks.

The same speaker then spoke upon the "Qualifications of a Good Teacher." The subject was discussed by Rev. W. B. Wellons and Superintendent J. T. Harris.

The various Schools were called upon through their representatives to say how many copies of the Sunday School paper each would take.

The School at Cypress, Ivor, Oakland and Providence were reported by their delegates.

A short time was spent in an informal discussion of various subjects.

The Convention then took a recess.

[Afternoon Session.]

Vice-President, Rev. J. N. Manning called the body to order.

The report of the Committee on Finance, including the report of the Treasurer, read, received and adopted. The report showed a surplus of $50.61 in the treasury of the Convention.

"The Qualities Constituting a Good Pupil," was the subject next discussed by Rev. R. C. Tuck. Remarks were offered also by Rev. C. A. Apple, Superintendent J. T. Harris, Brother M. H. Watkins, Rev. J. T. Whitley, and Rev. J. N. Manning.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered to the Suffolk, Church and others for generous hospitality during the present session.

After remarks by the President, and Rev. E. W. Beale, a motion for adjournment prevailed.

The Choir sang "Happy Home," and the President pronounced the benediction.

Statistical Table.

SCHOOLS.	Offer's, & T'chrs	Pupils.	Average Attendance.	Total.	Library.	S. S. Papers.	Collections.	Disbursements.
Damascus	14	65	46	79	90	10	$6 00	$6 00
Johnson's Grove	12	67	40	79	30	.	3 30	1 00
Mt. Carmel	21	175	78	196	160	25	7 24	5 76
Holy Neck	14	80	70	94	150	25	24 84	22 83
Oakland	18	68	43	86	289	20	10 04	15 75
Berea	14	51	45	65	300	..	32 62	24 27
Antioch	20	165	80	185	300	50	63 75	35 63
Berea, Norf'k	21	58	45	79	150	..	5 22	
Suffolk	29	133	89	162	400	75	110 11	114 38
Cherry G've	15	43	24	58		..	4 00	75
Ivor	11	31	26	42	56	..	6 28	3 70
Elm Grove	13	46	30	57	63	..	9 03	9 03
Barrett's	23	81	70	104		..		
Spring Hill	12	40	30	52	100	..	20 00	20 00
Liberty Sp'g	20	95	50	115	84	32	4 10	4 10
Sharon	14	41		55	125	..		
Walnut G've	12	54	40	66	138	..	24 00	24 00
Cypress	17	70	44	87	250	..	3 01	2 75
Bethlehem	14	63	50	77	75	..	2 92	
Sunnyside	13	44	35	57	50	..	15 78	15 78
Providence	10	34	20	44	200	..	5 00	22 00
Spike's Sp'ng	..			39		..		
Total	337	1504	955	1878	3010	..	357 24	327 73

The Sunday School Convention of the North Carolina Christian Conference, held no session in 1873. But as will be seen from the statistical table, appended to the Proceedings of the Conference, Sabbath School work is not overlooked among the Christians in that State, and it is hoped that during 1874, a Convention will be held.

Ministerial Directory.

ELDERS.

Albright, Joseph.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Allen, Chastien.....Oxford, "
Allen, P. W.....Oxford, "
Anderson, A. G.....Anderson's Store, "
Apple, Alfred.....Red Bank, Va.
Apple, Solomon.....Milton, N. C.
Apple, C. A.....Holy Neck, Va.
Ausley, J. B.....Jonesborough, N. C.
Barrett, S S.....Norfolk, Va.
Barrett, M. B.....Ivor, Va.
Beale, E. W.....Suffolk, Va.
Boon, C. A.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Brown, Wm. R.....Moffitt's Mills, "
Clements, Wm. G.....Morrisville, "
Costen, R. H.....Norfolk, Va.
Craven, Wm. M.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Deanes, D. T.....Summerfield, N. C.
Elder, J. D.....Milltown, Ala.
Farrell, John N.....Lockville, N. C.
Fowler, Thos. J.....Mebaneville, N. C.
Franks, Wm. B.....Raleigh, N. C.
Harding, James A.....Mcksville, West Va.
Hatch, John W.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Hayes, H. B.....Raleigh, N. C.
Holland, R. H.....Carrsville, Va.
Hurley, M. L.....McCray's Store, N. C.
Hurst, G. M.....Wedowee, Ala.
Iseley, Alfred.....Company Shops, N. C.
Kiracofe, N. B.....Dale Enterprise, Va.
Lawrence, Jno. S.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Lawrence, W. W.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Long, Wm. S.....Graham, N. C.
Long, D. A.....Graham, N. C.
Manning, J. N.....Norfolk, Va.
Nelson, A. S.....Carter's Mills, N. C.
Rawls, Robert.....Ivor, Va.
Rolston, C. J.....Nurneysville, Va.
Smith, Jubilee.....Richland, Ga.
Sorrell, M. J.....West Point, Ga.
Tinnen, R. G.....Cedar Grove, N. C.
Truitt, Thomas.....Company Shops, N. C.
Tuck. R. C.....Great Bridge, Va.
Walker, W. T.....Monticello, N. C.
Wellons, W. B.....Suffolk, Va.
Wellons, J. W.....Franklinton, N. C.
Wharton, J. K.....Columbus, Ga.
Whitley, J. T.....Windsor, Va.
Woods, G. W.....New Market, Va.

LICENTIATES.

Barrett, J. P.....Suffolk, Va.
Brady, Wm.....Aumon's Hill, N. C.
Calhoun, J. M.....
Ellis, S. I.....Mud Lick, N. C.
Gregg, C. W.....Wedowee, Ala.
Holt, J. W.....Graham, N. C.
Peter P. Humble.....Moffitt's Mills, "
Iseley, A. F.....Company Shops, N. C.
Kitchen, J. T.....Suffolk, Va.
Klapp, Peter T.....Graham, N. C.
Leger, W. R.....Columbus, Ga.
Manning, W. J.....Milltown, Ala.
McLeod, Daniel.....Aumon's Hill, N. C.
Pinnix, R. W.....Anderson's Store, "
Scott, Jno. A.....Moffitt's Mills, "
Staley, W. W.....Trinity College, "

ORDINATIONS.

C. J. Rolston, Valley Virginia Conference.
G. M. Hurst, Georgia and Alabama Conference.

LICENTIATES.

John T. Kitchen, Eastern Virginia Conference.
J. P. Barrett, Eastern Virginia Conference.
M. J. Winston, North Carolina Conference.
Peter P. Humble, Deep River Conference.

NEW CHURCHES ORGANIZED.

Brandon's Chapel, Halifax Co., Va.
Antioch, Chambers County, Ala.
Christian Union, Chambers County, Ala.

DEDICATIONS.

Linville, Rockingham Co., Va., Jan. 19th, 1873.
Morrisville, Wake Co., N. C., October 26th, 1873.
Antioch, Chambers Co., Ala.
Christian Union, Chambers Co., Ala.

EDUCATION.

The Christians have two Schools of High Grade, under their control and patronage.
The SUFFOLK COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, at Suffolk, Va., is in its 5th session.

JOSEPH KING, A. B., } *Associate*
JOHN H. WRIGHT, A. M., } *Principals.*

Mrs. Sarah B. Eley, Principal of Female Department.
Mrs. Anna H. Parker, Teacher of Music.
Rev. W. B. Wellons, Lecturer.

The GRAHAM INSTITUTE, at Graham, N. C.

Rev. WM. S. LONG, A. M., } *Associate*
Rev. D. A. LONG, A. M., } *Principals.*

These Schools are receiving the patronage of the Christians in the two States in which they are located.

Four Ministerial Students are attending the Suffolk Collegiate Institute; another is at the Graham Institute; one is at Trinity College, and others are attending private schools.

There are other private schools in Virginia and North Carolina, mainly patronized by the Christians.

The advertisements of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute and the Graham Institute, appears on another page of the Annual.

Places of Meeting of the Conferences for 1874.

Eastern Virginia, Holy Neck, Oct. 28th.
Valley Virginia, Antioch, Oct. 8th.
North Carolina, Hank's Chapel, Nov. 13th.
Deep River, Pleasant Grove, Oct. 8th.
Georgia and Alabama, Liberty, Randolph Co., Ala., Oct. 2d.

CHRISTIAN BOOK CONCERN.

The Book Concern of the Christians, is located at Suffolk, Va.
The Christian SUN is published weekly.
The Christian Hymn Book, Principles and Government of the Christian Church, and other Books are published by the Agent of the Concern.
Rev. W. B. Wellons is the General Agent of the Publishing Concern.

POSITION ON CHRISTIAN UNION.

In the grand Union movement, growing more and more important every week, the Christians took the lead years ago. The following resolutions, adopted by the General Convention of the Christians, at its quadrennial session, held at Suffolk, in May, 1870, shows the position then occupied by them.—This is the position they at present occupy, and is the position occupied by the editors of the *Church Union*, *Christian Unity*, and *Christian Witness*, and other papers now advocating organic Christian Unity:

Whereas, The members of the General Convention of the Christian Church are profoundly impressed with the belief that harmony in the Church of Christ is essentially necessary to the true interests of our holy religion: Therefore—

1. *Resolved*, That we appeal to all true christians of every denomination, to aid us in the great work of promoting that "unity of spirit in the bond of peace" which should prevail among the members of the body of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the Head.

2. *Resolved*, That while we freely concede the inalienable right of every man to exercise private judgment and liberty of conscience in matters of religion, yet we recognize the necessity which demands that certain fundamental doctrines should be believed and acknowledged by every one seeking admission into the visible church.

3. *Resolved*, That, in our opinion, there is a sufficient community of feeling and belief among evangelical denominations to form a basis of union, without binding the consciences of men in those matters which are but of secondary importance and are not essential to the constitution of the church instituted by our Lord and established through the instrumentality of his apostles and ministers.

4. *Resolved*, That we call upon every true friend of our holy faith, everywhere, to come out openly in favor of Evangelical Christian Union—the only safeguard of Protestant Christianity, and the only means of promoting that spiritual unanimity and perfect peace which are the crowning glory of the Gospel.

When the Lord's host shall become united, and the prayer of Jesus, that his disciples should be one, is answered; if that happy era shall dawn upon the present and a future generation, it will be found that the Christians have played no mean part in the blessed work.

PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIANS.

They extend the hand of Christian fellowship and brotherly love to all who have been born of the Spirit, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and work righteousness, welcoming all such to the Lord's table when spread by them. While immersion is the mode of baptism mostly practiced by them, yet sprinkling and pouring are recognized, and, to some extent, practiced by them. Their practice is to receive to their fellowship and church membership, all who give evidence of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and of a regenerated state, and then leave all to satisfy their own consciences in reference to the mode of baptism. Ministers and lay members are alike free to exercise their own liberty of conscience on this and all other subjects not considered fundamental or essential to regeneration and the salvation of the soul. Their pulpits are open to ministers of all Evangelical denominations, and the ministers of the Christian Church are always ready to join with other ministers in christian labors and in doing good.

They have taken the world for their field of labor, and are seeking to build up their cause, not upon the ruins of other organizations, but to bring together in cooperation the liberal and good from every class, and to make converts from the world.

GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIANS.

The next session of this body will commence at Graham, N. C., on Friday, May 1st, 1874. The President will address the body at its opening.

The present President of the Convention, is Rev. W. B Wellons, of Suffolk, Va. The Recording Secretary, is Rev. C. A. Apple, of Holy Neck, Va.

Standing Committees will report upon different subjects. The following are the Committees and the names of the Chairman of each: Rev. C. A. Apple, of Holy Neck, Va., is the chairman of the committee on Publications; Rev. J. N. Manning,

of Norfolk Va., is chairman of the committee on Schools and Colleges; Rev. J. W. Wellons, of Franklinton, N. C., is chairman of the committee on Missions, and Col Alex. Savage, is chairman of a special committee on Finance.

The following delegates have been elected to compose the next General Convention:

EASTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

ELDERS.—W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley.

LAYMEN.—Joseph King, Irivn W. Duck, Wm. Eley.

ALTERNATES.—Rev. M. B. Barrett, Col. M. H. Watkins, M. L. Watkins.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

ELDERS.—Wm. S. Long, Alfred Iseley, Alfred Apple, J. W. Wellons, Solomon Apple.

LAYMEN.—Wm. K. Martin, Peter R. Harden, John M. Moring, James M. Smith.

VALLEY VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

ELDER.—N. B. Kiracofe.

LAYMAN.—C. A. Henton.

ALTERNATES.—Rev. C. J. Rolston, D. F. Linaweaver.

DEEP RIVER CONFERENCE.

ELDERS.—Wm. R. Brown, John S. Lawrence.

LAYMEN —H. T. Moffitt, Oliver Vestal.

GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

Delegates remain to be chosen.

The next session of the Convention will be a most important one, and its proceedings will be waited for with great interest by the whole brotherhood.

OTHER CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS.

The first religious organization in the United States to take the name CHRISTIAN to the exclusion of all party names was the body represented in this Annual, whose organ is the *Christian Sun*, of Suffolk, Va.

There are, however, several other organizations in the United States known as Christians.

The "Christian Connection," as it is generally known in the Northern and Western States, is perhaps nearer on the platform occupied by the original Christians, in the South, than any other, but many of them have become tainted to a greater or less extent with Unitarianism, and have yet agreed upon no doctrinal basis, or declaration of principles, which prevents them from generally co-operating with the evangelical or orthodox denominations around them. They are, however, a revival people, and the great body of them a spiritual people, resembling the Methodists and Southern Christians much more in their manner of worship, than any unevangelical denomination. They number about 75,000 communicants.

The "Christian Union," of the Western States, came into existence during the late war, and is nearly on the platform occupied by the Christians in Virginia, North Carolina, and other States. They number about 20,000 or 25,000 communicants—have not laid down any doctrinal basis, or set forth any declaration of principles—are generally considered orthodox. Their churches are called churches of the Christian Union, their annual meetings Councils, and the general meeting a General Council.

The "Disciples," or adherents to the system of doctrines promulgated by the late Alexander Campbell, of Bethany, Va., are sometimes called Christians, and in many places their churches are called Christian churches, growing out of the fact that many of the ministers and churches of the "Christian Connection," in Kentucky and adjoining States, united with the Disciples when the organization first came into existence. This denomination teaches that baptism by water is for the remission of sins, and that regeneration is only made complete in the act of immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit. They are quite numerous in the Western States, and have churches planted in most of the Northern and Southern States; but are in no way denominationally connected with any of the other organizations known as Christians.

Independent congregations or churches are springing into existence all over the North and West, holding almost the precise position of the Christians. About fifty

such churches have already been organized, in different sections, and a Convention of the representatives of these independent churches, together with the Christians of the South is already called for, and is being discussed. At no distant day such a Convention will assemble either in New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati or Washington City, is now almost certain.

The Object of this Publication.

This annual publication, now issued for the third year, was commenced with the view of acquainting the public more fully with the CHRISTIAN organization—its history, its principles, its government, and its work. In years agone, the organization did not occupy its true position before the great public, and prejudices existed in the minds of many against it, which would never have been indulged if proper information could have been obtained. To place the Christians before the public in a true position is one great object aimed at in this publication.

The Minutes of the Conferences, and other matter, show the means being used for the permanent continuance of the denomination.

Although to some extent a separate and distinct organization from all others, yet they do not claim to be a sect in the usual acceptation and true definition of that term. The organization claims no name which is not common to all believers in Christ. It has no peculiar doctrines of its own to advocate; accepting as it does the doctrines generally held by Protestant and Evangelical Christians, as theirs. It asks and earnestly seeks the co-operation of all the followers of the Saviour in extending the benefits and comforts of the religion of Jesus to the whole human race.

The organization was formed not to separate the disciples of the Lord and make itself thereby a sect and its members sectarians, but it was formed for the purpose of uniting all the people of God in good works and in the propogation of the great truths of the Gospel.

The peculiar doctrines and tenets which have so long confused and distracted the church, producing division and multiplying sects, cease to be matters for debate and discussion in the CHRISTIAN organization. Holding the great fundamental doctrines and principles of the Gospel in common with the evangelical portion of the Protestant world, and extending to all the right of private judgment in all things not considered essential to salvation, no compromise of faith or opinion is required in order to communion and church fellowship. Denominational distinctions thus cease to exist, so far as christian fellowship and communion is concerned, and love binds the whole brotherhood together.

The purposes and aims of the organization will be consummated only when the world is reformed and the union of all the children of the common Father is effected.

PERIODICALS.

The CHRISTIAN SUN, is the only paper published directly in the interest of the Christians, as represented in this Annual. Published weekly at Suffolk, Va.; $2 50 a year. In its xxvii volume. Rev. W. B. Wellons, editor and proprietor.

The following periodicals are advocating just such principles as are advocated by the CHRISTIAN SUN, both of which came into existence within the past year.

The *Church Union*, an eight page paper; neatly gotten up and ably edited by Rev. George E. Thrall, at 27 Beekman street, New York. Price $2 a year.

The *Christian Unity*. an eight page paper; edited with ability, and breathing an excellent spirit, published by Rev. W. C. McCune, at 176 Elm street, Cincinnati, O. Price $2 a year.

These three periodicals represent fully the union sentiment of the Christians.

REVIVALS.

The Christians are a revival people. Many precious revivals were experienced in '73.

Rev. D. A. Long, aided by Rev. S. Apple, had a good meeting at Lebanon, Caswell county, N. C., embracing the 4th Sabbath in July—six persons were converted.

Rev. W. S. Long, aided by Bros. Iseley, Truitt and others, had a precious revival season at Providence, near Graham, N. C., embracing the 1st Sunday in August—22 persons converted.

Twenty persons were converted at Mt. Carmel, Isle of Wight County, Va., the 1st week in August, under the labors of Rev. M. B. Barrett, aided by Bros. Rolston, Holland and others.

A good meeting was held at Damascus, Orange county, N. C., the second week in August—20 persons converted. Rev. C. A. Boon, aided by Bro. Staley, conducted the meeting.

At Berea, in Norfolk county, Va., 20 persons found peace in believing, the first week in August—meeting conducted by Rev. R. C. Tuck, aided by Bro. Manning.

At Spring Hill, Sussex county, Va., Rev. J. T. Whitley, the pastor, held a gracious meeting the 1st week in August—27 believed in and confessed Christ. Bro. C. A. Apple aided in the meeting.

At Berea, in Nansemond county, Va., Rev. E. W. Beale held a good meeting the second week in August—11 persons professed faith in Jesus. Bros. M. B. Barrett, Manning and Rolston were with him

At Pleasant Hill, in Johnson county, N. C., Rev. W. G. Clements had a very good meeting, embracing part of the 3d week in August—11 believed and were made happy. Bro. Farrell aided the pastor.

Rev. R. C. Tuck held a precious meeting at Sharon, Camden county, N. C., embracing the 3d Sunday in August—20 persons found peace to their souls.

A gracious meeting was held by Rev. J. W. Wellons, at Union, Halifax county, Va., the second week in August, resulting in the conversion of 42 persons. He was aided by Bros. A. and S. Apple.

One of the best protracted meetings of the season was held at Barrett's, in Southampton county, Va., by Rev. M. B. Barrett, the last week in August. Seventy-four persons were converted, and the church doubled its strength. Bro. C. J. Rolston aided the pastor.

Rev. John N. Farrell held a gracious meeting at Wake Chapel, Wake county, N. C., the last of August—65 persons converted. Bros. Fowler and Clements aided.

Rev. Jubilee Smith held good meetings in August, with the churches at Providence and Christian Union, in Stewart county, Ga.

Rev. R. C. Tuck held a gracious meeting at Providence, in Norfolk county, Va., in August—20 persons converted. Bros, Manning, Whitley and Rolston were with him.

Rev. J. D. Elder held a blessed meeting at Liberty, Chambers county, Ala., in August—49 persons were received by him into the fellowship of the church—many others professed love for Jesus. He was aided by Bros. Gregg and Hurst.

Twenty-five persons were converted at Apple's Chapel, Guilford county, N. C., in August, under the labors of Rev. Alfred Iseley, aided by Bros Tinnen and Walker.

Rev. C. A. Apple held a good meeting at Holy Neck, Nansemond county, Va., early in September—more than 30 persons were relieved from the burden of sin. Bro. Manning aided in the good work.

Rev. M. B. Barrett, aided by Bros. Holland and Rolston, held a good meeting at Union, Southampton county, Va., in September—23 persons converted.

Early in September Rev. C. A. Boon held a good meeting at Zion, Chatham co., N. C.—several persons converted.

Seven persons were converted at Mount Auburn, in Warren county, N. C., in August, under the labors of Rev. W. S. Long, who had the assistance of Bros. D. A. Long and Tinnen.

At New Elam, in Chatham county, N. C., a good meeting was held by Rev. W. G. Clements, in September—10 converts.

At Bethlehem, in Nansemond county, Va., Rev. C. A. Apple held a good meeting in September—15 converts. Bros. Manning, Wellons and Whitley aided in the same.

A meeting was held at Oakland, Nansemond county, Va., in September, by Rev. E. W. Beale, resulting in the conversion of 21 souls. Bros. Rolston and Kitchen aided.

At Hines' Chapel, Guilford county, N. C., Rev. W. T. Walker held a blessed meeting in Sept.—22 conversions. Bros. Anderson, Iseley and Pinnix gave assistance.

Rev. J. T. Whitley had a blessed meeting at Antioch, Isle of Wight county, Va., in September—37 persons confessed the Saviour. Bros, Manning, Barrett and Tuck, gave aid in the good work.

Fifteen persons professed faith in Christ at Pope's Chapel, Franklin county, N. C., under the labors of Rev. J. W. Wellons, the last week in September. Bro. Wellons was aided by Bros. A. Apple and Anderson.

Rev. Thomas J. Fowler held a blessed meeting at Hank's Chapel, Chatham county, N. C., in September—10 conversions. Bros. Hatch and Ellis gave help.

At Shallow Well, Moore co., N. C., early in Oct., 31 persons were converted, under the labors of Rev. C. A. Boon, aided by Bros. Walker and Clements.

Bro. P. T. Klapp, a licentiate, held a blessed meeting at Holt's Factory, Alamance county, N. C., in October—35 converts. Bros. Iseley and Holt went to his assistance.

Several good meetings were held in the bounds of the Deep River, N. C., Conference, under the labors of Revs. W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence and M. L. Hurley.

Suffolk Collegiate Institute,

Designed to give Students of Both Sexes, the best facilities for acquiring a thorough and practical education. A full Corps of Teachers for all the Departments,

INCLUDING MUSIC ON PIANO,

AND ORNAMENTAL BRANCHES.

The next session will begin

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 1874.

Terms, per session of 20 weeks, payable Quarterly in Advance:

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Primary Department,	$12 50
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Latin, Greek and French, each (extra)	5 00
Incidental Expenses,	1 00
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Primary Department, (same as male,)	$ 8 00
Grammar School Department, (same as male, book-keeping excepted,)	12 00
High School Department, (Algebra, Elements Natural Philosophy, Composition, Rhetoric, History, Botany and Physical Geography,)	15 00
French,	5 00
Drawing and Painting,	5 00
Music on Piano, with use of Instrument,	20 00
Incidental Expenses,	1 00

☞Girls will board in the family of Mr. King, whose residence is within a few steps of the institute; Boys in the family of Mr. Wright, or Rev. E. W. Beale. Young men can club together and board themselves, if they choose.

For Catalogues, address

JOSEPH KING, A. B., } Associate
JNO. H. WRIGHT, A. M. } Principals.

Graham High School,

Rev. W. S. LONG, A. M., } Principals.
Rev. D. A. LONG, A. M. }

ENGLISH, CLASSICAL, MATHEMATICAL AND COMMERCIAL.

LOCATED IN GRAHAM, ALAMANCE CO., N. C.

Scholastic year consists of *forty weeks*, and ends the last Friday in May of each year.

Fifty-eight Students in attendance.

Tuition from $3 50 to $4 50 per month.

Board, $7 50 to $10 00 per month.

Students charged from time of entering.

The Editor of the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL for 1873, embraces this space to commend to his Christian brethren and the public, the two Schools, whose advertisements precede this note. Both, the SUFFOLK COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE and the GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL, are first-class Schools, of their grade. The former is owned by a Board of Stockholders, organized under the direction of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference. The latter, though at present a private school, controlled by the Brothers Long, in the interest of the North Carolina Christian Conference, will soon pass into the hands of a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Conference, the property having been purchased by the Conference at its last session.

These Schools are so conducted as to be entirely above sectarian feeling or practice. The minds of the Students are left entirely free, and they attend the Sabbath School and Services of whatever Church they, or their parents or guardians may prefer. About 75 Students have entered the Suffolk Collegiate Institute during the present term, and about 60 have entered the Graham High School during its present term.

Let the contributions, the patronage and prayers of the whole church centre around these institutions of learning, and may the influence and usefulness of each be increased and enlarged every year. Will Christian parents and guardians, and all who have boys and girls to educate, consider the claims of these institutions. They are confidently and heartily commended.

ANNUAL

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FOR

1874.

EDITED BY W. B. WELLONS, D.D.

VOLUME IV.

SUFFOLK, VA.
CHRISTIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.
Christian Sun Book and Job Office.
1874.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
The Christians	1
Proceedings of the General Convention	3
Minutes of the Eastern Virginia Conference	23
Minutes of the Valley Virginia Conference	36
Minutes of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference	43
Minutes of the Deep River Conference	55
Minutes of the Georgia and Alabama Conference	63
Conferences of Colored Persons	67
Proceedings of the Sunday School Convention	68
Ministerial Directory	75
Ordinations	76
Licensed	76
Deposed from the Ministry	76
Died	76
New Churches Organized	76
Dedications	76
Education	76
Christian Book Concern	77
Places of Meeting for the Conferences, 1875	77
Position on Christian Union	77
Organization of New Churches	77
Periodicals	77
Revivals	78
New Union Movement	79
Books for Sale	81
New Publication	82
The Christian Sun—Book and Job Office	Last page of cover

THE CHRISTIANS.

The CHRISTIAN organization came into existence with the avowed purpose of seeking to unite the followers of Christ of every persuasion, by the breaking down of party walls, party spirit, and sectarian feeling and practice, and by infusing into the minds and hearts of all lovers of the common Saviour a liberal spirit, thereby inducing liberal practice. That feeling which is now gaining strength day by day, they espoused when but few were found to sympathize with or co-operate with them. With this object prominently in view, the founders of the organization decided to discard all party names, and adopt the simple name CHRISTIAN, to the exclusion of all others, acknowledging no head to the Church but CHRIST. They resolved to have no rule of faith and practice, but the HOLY SCRIPTURES. The test of fellowship agreed upon was CHRISTIAN CHARACTER. With these principles they determined that THE RIGHT OF PRIVATE JUDGMENT and the LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE should be accorded to, and enjoyed by all, in reference to those points of doctrine and practice not considered essential to salvation. They decided that all who believe in, and love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, ought to be received into the fellowship and communion of the Church.

The CHRISTIANS have no peculiar doctrines of their own to advocate. They hold tenaciously to those doctrines alone which are considered essential or fundamental in the constitution of the Church. On all minor and unessential doctrines, they extend to all the fullest liberty and the freest exercise of their right of private judgment.

They have adopted a "Declaration of Principles," showing their unwavering faith in the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel, and devised a "Form of Government," on the basis of the Holy Scriptures, and have published a "Directory for Worship" and the administration of the Ordinances, which secures a great degree of uniformity in their practice.

As an independent organization, it has taken its position side by side with the Evangelical denominations of the world, and will give no countenance to heresy in any of its forms.

The strong union sentiment now permeating, to a greater or less extent, all denominations, is so much in keeping with the spirit which has long prevailed among the CHRISTIANS, that the position occupied by them is regarded with much more favor by liberal-minded, thinking Christian men, than ever before. All the signs of the times seem to point to the Christian organization as the nucleus around which the great Union Church of the future is to gather, when the evil of party names shall be seen and shunned, the Holy Scriptures become the infallible rule to all, and brotherly love and charity reign throughout the whole body.

The future is bright with promise to the CHRISTIANS, and year by year they are putting on new zeal, and going forward with new energy, and hope, and faith.

This annual publication, now issued for the fourth year, is published with a view of acquainting the public more fully with the CHRISTIAN organization—its history, its principles, its government, and its work. In years agone, the

organization did not occupy its true position before the great public, and prejudices existed in the minds of many against it, which would never have been indulged, if proper information could have been obtained. To place the CHRISTIANS before the public in a true position is one great object aimed at in the issuing of this ANNUAL.

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The organization was formed not to separate the disciples of the Lord, and make itself thereby a sect and its members sectarians, but it was formed for the purpose of uniting all the people of God in good works and in the propagation of the great truths of the Gospel.

The peculiar doctrines and tenets which have so long confused and distracted the Church, producing division and multiplying sects, cease to be matters for debate and discussion in the CHRISTIAN organization. Holding the great fundamental doctrines and principles of the Gospel in common with the evangelical portion of the Protestant world, and extending to all the right of private judgment in all things not considered essential to salvation, no compromise of faith or opinion is required in order to communion and church fellowship. Denominational distinctions thus cease to exist, so far as christian fellowship and communion is concerned, and love binds the whole brotherhood together.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

General Convention

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

REGULAR SESSION OF 1874.

GRAHAM, N. C.,
Friday, May 1, 1874.

The "GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH," met in its regular quadrennial session at this place at 11 o'clock, A. M., to-day, and was called to order by the President, who led the body in religious exercises. The following officers of the Convention, were present:

Rev. W. B. WELLONS, *President.*
Rev. Solomon Apple, *Vice-President.*
Rev. C. A. Apple, *Secretary.*
Rev. W. S. Long, *Assistant Secretary.*
Alfred Moring, Esq., *Treasurer.*

The roll of Conferences was then called, and the following presented credentials as delegates:

EASTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—*Ministers:* W. B. Wellons, Jno. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley.
Laymen: Jos. King, Wm. Eley, I. W. Duck.

NORTH CAROLINA AND VA. CONFERENCE.—*Ministers:* W. S. Long, A. Apple, J. W. Wellons, Solomon Apple, *A. Iseley.*
Laymen: W. K. Martin, P. R. Harden, Jno. M. Moring.

VALLEY VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—*Minister:* C. J. Rolston.

DEEP RIVER VALLEY CONFERENCE.—*Minister: Jno. S. Lawrence.*

GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CONFERENCE.—Not represented.

The President announced that a quorum was present.

On motion, Rev. Bros. M. B. Barrett and E. W. Beale of the E. Va. Conference; Rev. Bros. D. A. Long, P. T. Klapp and J. W. Holt, of the N. C. and Va. Conference, and Rev. Bro. M. L. Hurley of the Deep River Valley Conference, were invited to seats as deliberative members.

The President then proceeded to deliver the usual introductory

[NOTE.—Names in italics are those of delegates not present at the opening of the session.)

address, which he did in an interesting and instructive manner, explaining and enforcing the position of our organization in its relations to the moral and religious progress of the age.

OPENING ADDRESS.

BRETHREN :—I hail you as the servants of a common Master, and children of the one heavenly Parent above. I look into your faces with a proud satisfaction. We have not labored in vain, during the four years, since last we met in General Council. God has mercifully preserved the lives of all who composed our last meeting, and we are here, according to appointment, for friendly greeting, brotherly counsel, social, spiritual exercises, and earnest Christian work. Let us, first of all, lift our hearts to our Heavenly Guardian and Friend, with grateful emotion, for his wonderful goodness to us manifested; let us fall down and worship Him, with humility, with steadfast confidence and in childlike simplicity; let us draw up close to Him, and to one another, and realizing the *blessed truth* that we are brethren, let us be united in sympathy, in love, and enter upon our work determined to pull sweetly together, and endeavor, each one, to please not himself but his neighbor to edification.

We have a great work before us. Never before was such a position occupied by us, and never before did such a responsibility rest upon us. A new idea was born, a new thought burst into life and a living principle was developed, when the Christian organization came into existence. It was a resurrection from the dead, of a great truth that had long been sleeping. Jesus had prayed that his disciples might be one.—He had announced himself the Head of his Church—calling it *His* Church—and had declared that the gates of hell should not prevail against it. He had given to his church his own *new name*, and when in his death the wall of partition which had so long divided Jew and Gentile had been broken down, and the Gentiles were admitted to church communion, the believers in Him, Jews and Gentiles alike were called *Christians*, first at Antioch. Membership in this church and the wearing of this new name ceased to be a birthright, but whosoever should do his will became His. Character became the test of fellowship, and not an inherited birthright. It had been declared that every man should give account of himself to God, and the right of private judgment, therefore, became an inalienable privelege.

But, men had departed from this position, the church had become sectarian, and these first ideas had become obsolete—had long been buried out of sight. The moving spirits in the organization which, we my brethren, represent to-day, resurrected these first ideas and first principles, and held them up again, to light. They lived again. They have been reared and cultivated until quite vigorously they stand. The child has been long in reaching manhood, but maturity has at last been attained, and these long hidden principles are now the admiration of the whole Christian world having been in some way infused into every sect, party and denomination. The very principles first espoused by our organization are fast becoming the beauty and glory of the earth. The great union army of Christ is forming on earth, and we are in the lead—humble as we have always been, small as our numbers are, yet the eyes of the world are upon us, and the great colony of believers are gathering one by one around the standard which we have resurrected and reared. How responsible is the position which we occupy! How great is the work before us! Consider, my brethren, we are the representatives of this great movement—this grand work, and we are here from our distant homes, for consultation, for conference, for cooperation in devising new plans, and maturing works heretofore commenced. We must at once bend ourselves to the duty, and bringing into exercise all the strength we can command and all the wisdom we possess; relying upon Divine grace, let every one of us determine to do each one his part in the great performance, with faithfulness.

Wherein we have failed heretofore, let us not take time to consider, except to make practical the wisdom of experience and improve upon the past. We might have done more, we might have done better, but let the dead past bury its dead. We are the stewards of a living present, and we have not time to look back and grieve over missteps, but present duties claim all our time and all our thoughts—what we do must be done quickly and with our might.

And now, one and all, brethren, to the work before us.

To make practical our views of Christian union, permanently establish our organ-

ization, and yet stear clear of the *sect* spirit, and *sectarian practice*, will require all the wisdom we can command, all the prudence we possess, and a good degree of grace.

Our union must have TRUTH as its basis; it must be associated with liberty, and well seasoned with charity. Those like minded must co-operate together, and such prudential regulations as are essentially necessary to efficient co-operation must be enforced; and yet our devotion to what is generally received as truth, must not lead us to separate ourselves from any who are joined to Christ. There must be much liberty exercised, where the path of truth is not clearly marked out. We have in the writings of the Evangelists, in the Acts of the Apostles, and in the Epistles, only a general outline of what we now term church government, leaving much to be filled out by existing necessities, and these necessities must be governed to a great extent by the circumstances surrounding each local church organization I conclude, that in a union society like ours, entire uniformity in government is hardly attainable. On general principles we may agree; in the main we may be alike, but the details of government must be left to each local church

Scripture history reveals this fact to us, that all the disciples in any given locality compose the church in that locality. The members of the *one church* in any city or town, may have worshiped at different places in the same city or town, but the different bands of worshippers were considered only *one* church. Hence, we read of the Church at Jerusalem, at Antioch, at Corinth, at Ephesus, and at Philippi. These different bodies were called, when spoken of collectively, the Churches, but when spoken of individually, the Church. I take it for granted the precise code of laws which governed the Church in Jerusalem, could not in every particular suit the Church at Antioch or at Corinth. Jewish converts exclusively made up some of these Churches, and Jewish and Gentile converts, united, made up others. The same rules or laws, in detail, did not therefore suit every Church alike.

At the present time Churches on our platform are springing up all around us—union Churches, extending the hand of fellowship to all believers in Christ. But each Church must, of necessity, have its local prejudices, as each member of any local church has educational biases, and his prejudices. Churches, agreed upon the subject of union, and universal brotherhood, must, if they would co-operate and be mutual helpers one of another, allow one another all the liberty which a due regard to truth will permit, and be forbearing one toward another, in all things.

We *must be united*. We *must co-operate*. Our strength must be thrown together, and we must cultivate christian acquaintanceship, and exercise brotherly love one toward another. But due allowances must be made for any difference in educational training, in local tastes, and local peculiarities. *We must not become a sect*. We must not become sectarian in spirit. We must not require others to conform to our tastes in every particular, in order to our fellowship. On the other hand we must guard well against lax views and practices. We cannot open the door of our fellowship wider than Christ has opened it. Christ accepted all who repented of their sins and believed in Him, of every class, tribe and nation, and we should do the same. All who exercise repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we should receive to our fellowship.

Unity of spirit we should earnestly seek after, as laying the foundation for organic Church unity How shall this unity of spirit and organic Church unity be made practical? This is the important question. Practical union will be manifest, when believers learn to meet together, sing together, pray together and perform all the parts of worship in concert; communing together at the table of the common Saviour of all, and working together where good is to be accomplished. So far, at least, union may be made practical. And is there actual need, in our present state, for more union than this? Can we reasonably expect more than this? We *may* be *one* in mind and in spirit, but we never can be one in sentiment on all questions. because it is utterly impossible for us to see all things precisely alike, and when we pretend to see all alike and believe the same things, we practice hypocrisy, and show a lack of honesty which is not becoming. Human minds cannot be so packed, that there will be no crevices, and no difference between them. We have different gifts, different degrees of intellect, we receive a different culture, and we are not all possessed of the same amount of spiritual discernment, and we cannot be entirely united in *sentiment*, but in feeling and spirit we may be *one*. Let us, therefore, be content with the amount of *oneness* which is attainable, and not strive to go beyond the ability with which the great Creator has endowed us.

Let me rehearse the points made. We are the representatives of an organization now, in the lead of this great reform union movement. The eyes of union men are everywhere upon us. They are anxious on our account. They are satisfied that the principles which we have espoused are the true principles, and that we have laid down the true basis for the coming together of Christian people. But they anxiously enquire, if we have the *right spirit* for this great work—have we the new and sanctified affections, the brotherly feeling so often referred to in the gospel, the mighty need of the present hour. Can we stand opposition and not be moved? Can we bear misrepresentation? Can we endure contumely and reproach? Can we resist evil with good, and thus pour coals of fire on the heads of our enemies? Meet with opposition we must; to be misrepresented must be our lot; to be reproached, censured, sneered at and scorned will be a part of our experience. Can we stand all this? Have we the spirit that will enable us to stand? Can we go on lovingly, unitedly, preserving the truth, hugging it to our bosoms and bringing forth the fruits of holiness? Can we go on and continue to love, as brethren, those who differ with us and who do not see as we do? Can we bear misrepresentation and reproach and not be forced into belligerance—and not be elbowed into a sect? These are practical, common sense questions, which we may as well look straight in the face. Many sectarians want to put us into a hostile attitude. Can we prevent them from accomplishing their design? These enquiries are pertinent; they are timely. Brethren, we *must stand*; we must show that we are not a *mere party*, not a *sect*, but simply a band of christian worshippers and workers—working for God and to save souls. If we exhibit fraternal love; if we show that we are really what we profess to be; if we make plain that we are contending earnestly for a heavenly principle and not for personal or worldly aggrandizement, we shall eventually become a resistless power.

The great weary heart of the Church, brethren, is aching for our success. From Maine to Texas, prayers this day go up for us, and longing eyes are watching the steps which we shall here take. Oh! brethren, it is enough to make us tremble,—to cause us to fall down upon our faces to the earth and cry out, Oh! Lord, who is sufficient for these things?

But to the next point. We have organized—were forced to organize. In organization there is strength. One part of our business now is to make permanent our organization. This, you will permit me to say, will be best attained by strengthening, but not altering, our present plan. It may be that our form of government, as agreed upon in 1866, is not in every respect perfect. No human production is perfect. But take it all in all, it meets our wants; it has worked well in the general, and I doubt if we can better it by alteration, without marring its beauty and destroying its harmony. I therefore advise that efforts at change, if any such be contemplated, be abandoned, and let us rally around our platform as it stands, and endeavor to establish it, and this can be effected in no way so efficiently as by letting well enough alone.

Let us lift ourselves, at the present, above the drudgery which has already been done. The foundation has been laid,—has been well laid, and now let us go on to improve, by strengthening our stakes, enlarging our borders, and making room for the thousands that are marching up to the position occupied by us. Behold them coming! From the North and the South, the East and the West, they are coming! Make ready, make ready to receive them. Unfold your arms, spread them wide, our friends are approaching. Let the doors of our hearts fly open wide to receive them.

We are not a *sect*. Thank God we are not a *sect*. Our arms are not folded, the doors of our hearts are not closed. No pent up Utica is ours. Our sympathies, our love and our fraternal feelings are as wide as the boundless universe. See to it, brethren, that these arms are never folded, the doors to these hearts are never closed, that our sympathies, our charity and our fraternal emotions grow and increase in power and energy.

We must have no controversy with those who differ with us about small matters. Unessentials must never stand between us and any who love and serve Jesus. All are our brethren whom Jesus receives and blesses, and no party or sectarian feeling must ever separate us from them. Never! never!

And now, brethren, though I have been your President for eight years past, I claim no more authority than the youngest Elder among you; allow me to suggest to you some subjects, in addition to what I have already presented, for your consideration.

Consider what can be done to increase and give a healthier growth to our religious literature—how publications may be increased, and given a wider influence.

Consider the best means for the promotion of education, the establishment of schools, and the diffusion of knowledge among our people, and all with whom we have influence.

Consider and mature, if possible, some plan for the planting of new Churches, and for the reception of ministers and churches drawing toward us and the position we occupy.

Be not in haste, brethren, to pass over these things, and return to your homes. Let no one think of leaving this place until our work has been completed. For the present, let things at home and elsewhere take care of themselves, and to the work here before us bend your every effort until our work is done, and then away to our work elsewhere.

Pardon a personal allusion. In your confidence, you have retained me in my present position, as President of this Supreme body of our organization, from the first meeting of our body after the close of the, ever to be remembered, war, until now. I can put my hand upon my heart and say truthfully, I have done what I could in my position, and yet I have done but little—not half what I desired—not half what I might have performed under other circumstances. But I do not reproach myself for any lack of effort, but only lament my lack of ability.

Before me, at the present, there opens a door of usefulness; a field for accomplishing good, is spread out before my vision—it is white unto the harvest, and my soul is panting to enter it. It seems as if I had just emerged from night into day. The future, the future is full of hope and promise. Oh! shall I, shall you my brethren, be able to show ourselves equal to the work before us, and capable to fill the position in which Divine Providence seems to have placed us?

Brethren, one more word, before I close these introductory remarks. Do your work in harmony. Be careful of one another's feelings in debate. Shun all personalities. Be not sensative, overmuch so at least. Cultivate an amiable, loving spirit. Bear with one another's imperfections, and so bear one anothers burdens. Let none of us think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, but let us be sober, watching unto prayer, and let our moderation be known unto all.

Carry with you, dear brethren, in the families with whom you are domiciled, the spirit of meekness, gentleness, and christian cheerfulness, without lightness, with humility without any display of vanity.

Make every family feel better because of your temporary stay among them, and so act as to impress all with whom you are brought in contact, for good. Put a bridle upon your tongues in the social circle and in the public assembly, and let your conversation be everywhere as becometh the gospel of Christ, and the mission you are on.

And may this session of our Convention be the most profitable and the most pleasant yet held, and when it is over may we love to cherish in our hearts a recollection of all its proceedings, and feel ever afterwards drawn closer together as fellow-laborers in a good and glorious cause.

At the conclusion of the address, the congregation joined in singing the noble hymn:

"Alas and did my Saviour bleed?"

The Convention then took a recess until 2 o'clock P. M.

(Afternoon Session.)

The Convention resumed its business at the appointed hour, the President in the chair.

Rev. Jno. S. Lawrence, ministerial delegate from the Deep River Valley Conference, appeared, presented his credentials, and was admitted to a seat in the Convention as a regular member.

The Convention then went into the election of officers, for the next four years.

On motion, the Convention determined to vote by ballot. A ballot being taken for President, Rev. W. B. Wellons was re-elected, and on motion, his election was made unanimous. The President, on being reconducted to the chair by Bro. W. K. Martin, addressed the body most warmly, thanking the brethren for renewed confidence.

A ballot being taken for Vice-President, Rev. Solomon Apple was re-elected to that office ; and, on motion, his election was also made unanimous.

Lay Bro. Jno. M. Moring was then unanimously elected Assistant Secretary.

No election was held for Secretary and Treasurer, these being standing officers.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, the several parts of the President's opening address were referred to the appropriate standing committees, and that part relating to Christian Union, was referred to a special committee, to be appointed by the chair. The chair appointed as the special committee on Christian Union: Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley and J. N. Manning, and lay Bro. Jno. M. Moring.

On motion, Rev. W. S. Long, and Laymen P. R. Harden and W. K Martin were appointed a committee on Religious exercises.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Convention meet every morning at 9 o'clock, take a recess at 11½ A. M., meet again at 2 P. M., and adjourn at will. Agreed to.

Also, the following :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are eminently due, and are hereby tendered to Rev. W. B. Wellons, President of this body, for the very able and instructive address delivered by him at the opening of this session, and that a copy be requested for publication with the minutes of the Convention. Adopted.

On motion, the chair was requested to appoint a committee of three to draft rules of order for this Convention, and report to-morrow afternoon. The chair appointed Rev. J. N. Manning, J. M. Moring, and Jos. King.

The committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. A. Apple to preach to-morrow at 11½ A. M.

A lengthened discussion took place upon a resolution introduced by Rev. J. N. Manning, condemning the conduct of the last Convention, in appointing persons upon committees, such persons not being amenable to this body. On motion, the

matter was referred to a special committee, consisting of Jno. M. Moring, Alfred Apple, and William Eley.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 A. M. Religious services by Rev. C. J. Rolston.

[Second Day.]

Saturday, May 2d.

The Convention met, pursuant to adjournment, and spent thirty minutes in devotional exercises, led by the President.

The roll was then called, and Rev. J. W. Wellons only was absent from his seat, being unavoidably detained.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. J. T. Whitley offered the following resolution :

Resolved, *by the General Convention.* That we hereby recommend to the local Churches, within our jurisdiction, to elect their pastors for indefinite terms, instead of holding elections to fill the pastoral office every year.

Rev. J. W. Wellons arrived and took his seat.

The resolution of Bro. Whitley, was earnestly discussed by its author, and Rev. Bros. J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, J. W. Wellons, C. J. Rolston, and W. S. Long, favorably, and by Bros. W. K. Martin, A. Moring, and P. R. Harden, adversely. The resolution was then laid upon the table.

Rev. A. Isely, having been detained from indisposition, caused by severe personal injuries accidentally received, appeared, presented his credentials, and was admitted to a seat in the Convention.

The Convention then took a recess until 2 o'clock P. M.

In the interim an impressive sermon was delivered by Rev. A. Apple, founded upon Rev. 3 : 5 : "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment ; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life ; but I will confess his name before my father, and before his angels."

[Afternoon Session.]

The Convention met at the appointed hour, and was called to order by the President.

Rev. C. A. Apple, from the Committee on Publications, introduced the quadrennial report of his Committee, as follows :

REPORT :

Your Committee on Publications, beg leave to report :

1. Our operations during the term of our continuance in office, have been necessarily very limited, owing to our narrow pecuniary circumstances and other difficulties which have presented themselves. We find the cause of this fact partly in the want of sufficient public spirit among our people ; partly in the fact that our church has had much to do in other directions, and upon the whole, all circumstances considered, we have raised as much money for the various purposes of the church as we could reasonably have expected.

2. That we do not consider it expedient to attempt at this time to set on foot a regular publishing house entirely under control of the Convention, since we feel assured that not enough can be raised to insure success in an enterprise of so much magnitude.

3 The "CHRISTIAN SUN," published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, as a private enterprise, appears to meet the denominational wants, and is recommended by your committee as the proper organ of our church and a candid exponent of its principles. We think that, while it maintains its present course, it ought to be heartily supported by our people. We are glad to say that this paper was never in a more flourishing condition than at this time.

4. Another paper, also a private enterprise, edited by Rev. J. T. Whitley, and published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, at Suffolk, Va., deserves our warm commendations. This paper, called "THE LITTLE CHRISTIAN," has just appeared in its first number, and is devoted to the interests of our Sunday School work. This enterprise, though entirely private, we think will merit and obtain the full sympathy of all lovers of our cause. Our brethren, above named, are doing this work at a sacrifice of time and money to themselves, prompted by a desire to benefit the church.

5. A Manual for Sunday Schools, several tracts upon Christian Union and the position of our church organization, together with the Christian Annual, containing proceedings of our deliberative bodies and other valuable matter, complete the list of publications, in our interest, during the last four years.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. APPLE,
J. N. MANNING,
SOLOMON APPLE,
ALFRED MORING. } Com.

The report was explained by the Chairman of the Committee, and discussed by Rev. Bros. W. B. Wellons, J. T. Whitley, D. A. Long, and Lay Bro. P. R. Harden, after which it was adopted.

The Committee on Religious Exercises made the following announcements for public services on to-morrow, (Sunday):

CHRISTIAN CHURCH: Sunday School Mass Meeting at 9 A. M. —to be addressed by Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. J. T. Whitley, and Bro. Jno. M. Moring; Devotional Exercises to be conducted by Rev. C. A. Apple. 11 A. M., preaching by Rev. W. B. Wellons, 2, P. M., preaching by Rev. J. T. Whitley, 8, P. M., preaching by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 11, A. M., preaching by Rev. C. A. Apple. 8, P. M., preaching by Rev. J. N. Manning.

COMPANY SHOPS: 11, A. M., preaching by Rev. J. W. Wellons. 8, P. M., preaching by Rev. E. W. Beale.

UNION CH. CHURCH, (*Alamance Co.*): 11, A. M., preaching by Rev. C. J. Rolston.

COLORED CH. CHURCH, (*Graham*): 11, A. M., preaching by Rev. Alfred Apple.

The Special Committee on Rules of Order, presented the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT:

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

I. The President shall call the Convention to order precisely at the hour to which

it stands adjourned, and shall cause the session at the beginning of each day to be opened with religious exercises, at least by prayer.

II. After calling the roll of members and the reading and approval of the minutes of the preceeding day, the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Presentation of Petitions or other papers addressed to the Convention.
2. Reports of Standing Committees.
3. Reports of Select Committees.
4. Introduction of Resolutions.
5. Special Orders.
6. General Orders, (being all matters of business on the Calendar in the order in which they were presented.)

Powers and Duties of the President.

III. It shall be the duty of the President at all times to preserve order.

IV. The President shall, as soon as practicable, after the meeting of a regular session of the Convention, appoint Standing Committees upon the following subjects: on Schools and Colleges—on Home Missions—on Publications—and on Finance.

V. The President shall appoint all Committees, unless otherwise ordered by the Convention.

VI. The President may speak to points of order in preference to any member, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide all questions of order, but any member may appeal from his decision to the Convention.

VII. While occupying the chair, the President, shall not speak upon any matter, except to a question of order.

VIII. When a vote is taken by ballot, the President shall vote with the other members, but in no other case, unless the Convention be equally divided.

Duties of the Secretary.

IX. The Secretary shall faithfully record the proceedings of the Convention; shall file all papers in due order with proper endorsements thereon; and perform such other duties relative to his office as he may be required by the President.

Of Decorum and Debate.

X. Every member wishing to speak, or debate, or to present any paper, to give notice, make a motion, or report, shall rise from his seat and address the President, and shall not proceed further until recognized by him. No member shall speak more than once on any question of order, postponement to a day certain, or commitment, and not more than twice on any other subject, nor more than thirty minutes at one time, unless by unanimous consent of the Convention. When two or more members rise at once, the President shall designate the member first to speak.

XI. Every member within the house when a question is stated by the chair, shall vote thereon, unless excused by the Convention before the vote is ordered.

XII. No member shall engage in conversation or otherwise interrupt the business of the Convention while the journals or other papers are being read. When the President is putting a question, or a division by counting shall be had, no member shall walk out of or across the House, nor, when a member is speaking, pass between him and the President.

XIII. Any motion or resolution may be withdrawn before any discussion is had thereon, but not afterwards, except by unanimous consent.

XIV. When a question is before the Convention no motion shall be received, except the following, which shall have precedence in the order stated, viz:

1. For adjournment or recess.
2. For the previous question.
3. To lay on the table.
4. To postpone indefinitely.
5. To postpone to a day certain.
6. To commit to a standing committee.
7. To commit to a select committee.
8. To amend.

XV. The motion to adjourn and lay on the table, and the call for the previous question, shall be decided without debate; and the motion to adjourn shall always be in order when made by a member entitled to the floor.

XVI. The previous question shall always be as follows: shall the main question

be now put? and, until it is decided, shall preclude all debate. If this question shall be decided in the affirmative, the "main question" shall be on the passage of the resolution or other matter under consideration; but when amendments are pending, the question shall be first taken upon such amendments in their order without further debate. If such question be decided in the negative, the main question shall be considered as remaining under debate. The original mover of a question, and the chairman of a committee reporting the same shall alone be entitled to call the previous question.

XVII. All motions shall be reduced to writing, if required by the President or any member. When any question contains more than one distinct proposition, it may be divided, at the request of a member, and a vote taken on each division.

XVIII. The motion to postpone to a day certain or commit, shall preclude debate on the main question.

XIX. When a blank is to be filled and different sums and times shall be proposed, the question shall first be taken on the highest sum or longest time.

XX. When a question has been once put and decided, it shall not be again considered at the same session of the Convention, unless upon the motion of a member who voted with the majority, it shall be reconsidered. Motions to reconsider must be made or notice thereof given within one day after the question has been decided, and no question shall be reconsidered but once.

Miscellaneous.

XXI. No member shall be allowed to make indecorous or personal reflections while engaged in debate; and no member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he be out of order.

XXII. No rule of this Convention shall be altered or rescinded without a vote of a majority of all the members elected to constitute the Convention, and no rule shall be temporarily suspended, unless by a majority of the vote last taken.

XXIII. The yeas and nays upon any question shall be taken and entered upon the Journal upon demand of one fifth of the members present.

XXIV. In the absence of any express rule the proceedings of this body shall be conformed to general parliamentary usages.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING,
JNO. M. MORING,
JOSEPH KING.

Rev. J. N. Manning, from the Committee on Schools and Colleges, presented the quadrennial report of his committee, which, after being read, was made the special order for Monday, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The Convention then adjourned. Religious services by Rev. C. A. Apple.

[Third Day.]

Monday, May 4th.

The Convention met at 9 o'clock A. M., and was opened with social religious services, continuing for half an hour.

After religious services, the Convention was called to order, and, on call of the roll, Rev. Bros. A. Iseley and C. J. Rolston were absent, being detained by inclement weather.

The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

The special order for 10 o'clock to-day, being the report of the Standing Committee on Schools and Colleges, was taken up. A minority report, dissenting from certain statements in the re-

port of the majority, being presented by Rev. C. A. Apple, a member of the Committee, both reports were, on motion, referred back to the Committee.

On motion, Rev. W. G. Clements, of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, being present, was invited to a seat as a deliberative member. Bro. Clements responded in appropriate terms.

By consent, Rev. S. Apple introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the time for the meeting of this Convention be changed from the first Friday in May to the first Friday in June.

The resolution was taken up, and after discussion by Rev. Bros. S. Apple, J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple, D. A. Long, and Lay Bro. A. Moring, was rejected.

Rev. C. J. Rolston appeared and took his seat.

Rev. C. A. Apple, by consent, offered the following:

Resolved, That division 5, section 6, of chapter 1, of the Form of Government, be amended to read as follows: "He shall send up to the annual conference every year, with the annual report of his church, a duly certified statement, signed by the pastor and one or more deacons of his church, setting forth the condition of the records of the church."

The resolution was discussed favorably by Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley and C. A. Apple, and adversely by Rev. J. N. Manning, when the hour having arrived, under the rule, for recess, the rule was suspended, and the discussion was continued. The resolution was further opposed by Rev. Bros. W. B. Wellons and W. S. Long, and advocated by Rev. S. Apple. On motion, the resolution was then laid upon the table.

The Special Committee upon the resolution offered by Rev. J. N. Manning, disapproving the action of the last Convention, in appointing persons not amenable to this body upon Standing Committees, reported as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on the resolution of Rev. J. N. Manning, disapproving the action of the last session of this body in appointing upon Standing Committees, persons not amenable to the Convention, would respectfully report:

That they are of opinion, after consideration of the whole subject, that the term of office of members of the Convention begins at the regular session of the Convention, next succeeding their election, and ends at the session four years thereafter.

That, when organized, the Convention cannot properly constitute its Standing Committees, otherwise than from its own members; and when so constituted the duties of the Standing Committees do not cease until a report in writing is presented by the Chairman in person, or otherwise, to the Convention, meeting at the expiration of their terms of office, as members.

Therefore, they recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved 1, That under our Form of Government, the term of office of members of this Convention, begins at the opening of the session of the Convention next succeeding their election, and ends four years thereafter.

Resolved 2, That it is the duty of all Standing Committees to report in writing

through their Chairman to the session of the Convention, to be convened at the expiration of their term of office. Respectfully submitted.

JNO. M. MORING,
WM. ELEY,
A. APPLE.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered the following amendment to be appended to Resolution 2: "With powers to deliberate thereupon, but not to vote unless elected by their respective Conferences." The amendment was discussed favorably by Rev. Bros. Manning and C. A. Apple, and opposed by Rev. W. S. Long and Lay Bro. Jno. M. Moring; after which it was voted upon and lost. After some remarks by Rev. D. A. Long, the report of the committee was adopted.

Rev. J. T. Whitley then offered a resolution to allow members of standing committees, not re-elected members of the Convention, the right to deliberate upon their reports. Lost.

Rev. J. W. Wellons, from the Committee upon Home Missions, made the following report, which, after discussion by the Chairman, and Lay Bros. Jos. King and W. K. Martin, was adopted:

REPORT.

To the General Convention of the Christian Church:

Your Committee on Home Missions would report: That they have been able to accomplish but little, no funds having been placed at their command, and all our efficient ministers being employed in the pastoral work.

The moral condition of our Churches is good. Order and system is being more successfully introduced, from year to year in our local churches, and in our annual Conferences, and the relations between the pastors and the churches, are becoming more permanent, and more efficient.

We think, for the present, that most of our missionary work can be more effectually done through the Annual Conferences. We would advise that the practice of the local churches, of electing a pastor annually, or depending upon the Conference to provide them with a pastor, be discouraged, and that all the churches be encouraged and advised to secure regular pastors, to be elected for an indefinite period, or as long as the relation shall be mutually agreeable. We farther advise that every church should have a pastor to minister to them every Sabbath, when the church is able to sustain such a pastor, but when a church is not able to sustain a pastor, then two or more churches should unite in the employment of a pastor, and in all such arrangements that the churches should be located at a convenient distance, one from another, so as to make the larger churches aid the weaker ones.

We advise that the Home Missionary Committees, of the Annual Conferences, hereafter confine their labors to the weak and inefficient churches, unable to procure pastors, and to the establishment of churches in new places.

And we advise that the Committee on Home Missions hereafter co-operate with the President of this Convention, in the organization of new churches, on our platform, in different sections; that the President visit as many such places as he can, and, in co-operation with the Committee on Home Missions, appoint other ministers to perform this duty, when he finds himself unable to do it.

Your Committee see opened before us, a large field of usefulness, if we had the means and the men at our command to at once occupy these fields, but until we acquire more strength and more means, we must be content to do little, where much might be done. Respectfully.

J. W. WELLONS,
A. APPLE.

The Committee on Schools and Colleges, whose report had been referred back, reported again through their Chairman, and after discussion by Rev. Bros. Manning, D. A. Long, W. S. Long, C. A. Apple J. W. Wellons, and the President, the Vice-President occupying the Chair, and Lay Bros. King and Martin, the report was adopted as follows :

REPORT.

Your Committee on Schools and Colleges would report:

That, next to the establishment of Christ's spiritual kingdom in the hearts of the people, it should be the policy of the Christian Church to increase the number of its educated men. It must be evident to all intelligent minds that this cannot be done—that the Church cannot accomplish the great purposes of its organization without the necessary facilities for acquiring classical and scientific, as well as theological knowledge. One of the most pressing and pre-emptory demands made upon our denomination at present, is to furnish means for the erection and support of High Schools and Colleges in suitable localities, through the agency of which, education may become more generally diffused, and the membership of the Church in general, attain to higher intelligence. Your Committee are of the opinion that it is best to educate the children of Christian parents in Christian Schools and Colleges, and that, for the present at least, while deprived in a measure of those sources of large revenue characteristic of other and older religious denominations, the Church should so plan and construct its High Schools and Colleges, both as regards the arrangement of the buildings and grounds, as well as the system of study, as that the young of both sexes may be educated together, without additional expense of separate buildings, apparatus and instructors. In offering these suggestions, your Committee would not be understood as saying that the same course of study in all its details, is equally well suited to the requirements of both sexes. Of this, doubts may be entertained; but that both sexes may pursue together in the same classes, and under the same instructors, such studies as are applicable to the wants of both alike, and pursue other studies separately, but still all in the same buildings, with the use of the same apparatus, and under the instruction of the same teachers and professors.

Your Committee, acquainted in some degree with the wants and workings of many High Schools and Colleges in various parts of the country, are fully impressed with the belief that, while High Schools and Colleges unendowed may exert a vast influence for good, yet it is absolutely necessary to have them permanently endowed, in order to make them efficient for the purposes of high classical and scientific attainments. Tuition fees alone will not enable our schools to give the kind of instruction which a thorough and liberal culture demands. It is rarely, if ever, the case that such fees are sufficient to command the services of an instructor of that high and extensive scholarship and integrity of character, requisite to impart to young persons thorough classical and scientific instruction, and train them in the walks of a higher christian life. Fruitless would be any attempt to greatly elevate a High School or College—to establish in it a very high standard of scholarship without funds to support it in adversity, as well as prosperity. That indigent but worthy and industrious young men may avail themselves of the advantages offered by High Schools and Colleges, the tuition fees should be very moderate, and nothing short of endowment will secure so important and desirable an end.

Since the last meeting of your body a High School of respectable grade has been erected in Suffolk, Va., chiefly through the exertions of Rev. W. B. Wellons. The School was chartered by the Virginia Legislature, and is possessed of Collegiate powers. The property belongs to stockholders, who are chiefly members of our church, and is wholly under the influence of our denomination; entirely non-sectarian.

Within the last year, Graham College, which has been ably and efficiently managed by Revs. W. S. and D. A. Long, has been placed at the disposal and under the fostering care of the N. C. Conference This School is also in a flourishing condition, and well deserves the support and patronage of our people generally, as well as the public at large.

Your Committee would recommend that this Convention advise the local Con-

ferences in which these schools are respectively located, to consider the propriety of endeavoring to devise and execute some plan by which they may be placed upon a solid monetary foundation, in order that the course of study in them may be enlarged, and the different departments made more efficient, than is possible to be done, when so many branches of study are necessarily divided among two or three teachers.

In conclusion, your Committee would impress upon the minds of this Convention the utter futility of mere reports, unless they lead to deliberations which shall tend to awaken our people to the importance of general education, and result in an organized and judicious effort to establish, endow, and support such institutions of learning as may be necessary to place us, as nearly as possible, upon an equal footing with other and older religious denominations, and enable us to wield that power and influence which a liberal Christian education alone will enable us to exercise.

Respectfully submitted.

J. N. MANNING;
JOSEPH KING,
W. S. LONG,
C. A. APPLE.

The Convention then adjourned. Religious services by Rev. A. Apple.

[Fourth Day..]

Tuesday, May 5th.

The Convention met at the appointed hour, and was opened with the usual devotional exercises.

The roll was then called, and Rev. A. Iseley was reported absent, through indisposition.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev J. T. Whitley, from the Special Committee upon Christian Union, made a report, hereinafter inserted.

The report was earnestly and ably discussed by Rev. Bros. Whitley, Manning and W. B. Wellons, the Vice-President being in the Chair.

The hour for recess having arrived, the rule was suspended, and the Convention proceeded with the consideration of the report, and Bro. W. K. Martin and Rev. C. A. Apple addressed the Convention.

The Convention then took a recess until 2 o'clock P. M.

(Afternoon Session.)

The Convention met at 2 P. M., and resumed the consideration of the report of the Special Committee on Christian Union. Rev. J. T. Whitley called the previous question on the report, and the call was sustained. The question being put upon the adoption of the report, it was unanimously adopted.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered a resolution appointing a Special Committee to prepare a public Manifesto upon Christian Union. Laid on the table.

On motion, after some discussion, the vote adopting the report of the Committee on Christian Union, was reconsidered, and afterwards the report was, on motion, referred back to the Committee, with instructions to append thereto a Manifesto to be addressed by this Convention to the christian public at large.

A. Moring, Treasurer of the Convention, made his quadrennial report, which was referred to the Special Committee on Finance.

On motion, the Convention went into the selection of a suitable place for its next meeting. After considerable discussion, and the nomination of several places, the Convention decided to meet at Norfolk, Va., at its next regular session in 1878.

The Committee on Finance, through Bro. Wm. Eley, presented the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

The Standing Committee on Finance, appointed at the last session of this Convention, regret to say that the duties assigned the Committee have been almost wholly neglected. Soon after the close of the Convention in Suffolk, the committee organized and the duties assigned were committed to the Chairman and Secretary, but mainly to the Secretary. The plan was to appoint agents in every church, and solicit ten cents a year from every communicant and member of our congregations, annually. Just at that time, we had so many enterprises on foot, and our friends had been and were being so frequently called upon, that we hesitated to put forward yet another The second year seemed equally unfavorable, and so on to the fourth. Hence, nothing has been done.

Your Committee see now that they erred, and frankly acknowledge it. They feel that they deserve the censure of the Convention, and will not feel aggrieved at the action of the Convention if condemnation of their course is exhibited.

If there were time at their command, they would repent and do better; but time past never returns.

We would commend the plan adopted at the last Convention, and advise that a more efficient Committee be appointed to carry out this plan, in the future.

We must have money, or our publications and all other enterprises will fail. Our people are growing more and more liberal every year, and we may yet accomplish more than has been dreamed of in the past.

From the report of the Treasurer, it will be seen that he has received, since the last session of this Convention, the sum of - - - $ 18 00
Amount in hands of Board of Publication, - - - - 361 54
Amount of cash in hands of Treasurer, - - - - - 174 90

Total amount, - - - - - $554 44

Respectfully submitted,
WM. ELEY,
W. B. WELLONS,
J. M. MORING.

Rev. A. Iseley arrived and took his seat.

Resolutions of thanks were tendered to the various Railroads, for courtesy to the members of the Convention: and also to the people of Graham and vicinity, for their free and open-handed hospitality.

The Convention then adjourned. Religious services by Rev. A. Iseley.

(Fifth Day.)

Wednesday, May 6th.

The Convention assembled at the usual hour, and spent thirty minutes in Religious services, after which the body was called to order by the President.

The roll being called, Rev. Bros. Manning and Lawrence were reported absent.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. J. N. Manning appeared and took his seat.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, from the Special Committee on Christian Union, asked leave to report again as follows:

REPORT.

To the General Convention: The Special Committee appointed to consider that part of the President's quadrennial address referring to the general subject of Christian Union, having conferred together, have agreed upon the following report:

We are glad to announce that the views held by us, as an organization, are fast becoming the views of a large proportion of the christian world. As the years roll on, pious men and women are drawing closer together in worship and work; so that where once division and open antagonism reigned, love and fellowship are now to be found. The barriers between the various companies of God's people are fast breaking down before the pressure of ardent christian hearts, and ere long, it is hoped, the last wall of partition will be demolished and there will be, according to the Saviour's words, but "one fold and one shepherd."

The World's Evangelical Alliance, which met in New York last autumn, was one of the most decided steps towards christian union that has yet been taken. Ministers and laymen of all denominations and countries, came together and labored as brethren in a common cause. We hail this meeting as one of the most promising signs of the times.

Newspapers are springing into existence in various localities throughout this and other countries, advocating in the most decided terms the union of all christians upon the general doctrines of the Bible. Among these papers we may specially mention the *Church Union* of New York, and the *Christian Unity*, of Cincinnati, which are doing noble work in the great cause of union.

We are advised that independent Churches are being established in many places, especially in the cities, almost identical in theory and practice with ourselves. Probably fifty or a hundred of these independent bodies have been formed already, composed of christians who are tired of sectarianism, and long for fellowship with the whole brotherhood of faith. Furthermore, in various towns and cities union prayer meetings and co-operative associations have been organized, all tending to break down the barriers which separate christians from each other and make Christ's followers feel their essential unity.

It is believed by your committee, that the whole christian world is gravitating towards this union position, and that the time has now arrived when we, as leaders in this movement, should make known our views and aims to all who may be interested therein. We therefore recommend the adoption and extensive circulation of the following circular address to lovers of Christian Union everywhere, properly attested by the officers of this body.

CIRCULAR ADDRESS,

of the General Christian Convention to the Lovers of Christian Union everywhere.

The General Convention of the Christian Church held its fourth quadrennial session at Graham, North Carolina, beginning on the first day of May, 1874. A Special Committee, consisting of Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. John N. Manning, and Brother John M. Moring, was appointed to consider and report upon the general

subject of Christian Union. The Committee, after mature deliberation, presented a report, recommending the adoption and extensive circulation of a Manifesto, setting forth our views and aims as an organization. The report was unanimously adopted, and the following is the

MANIFESTO.

The General Convention of the Christian Church, assembled in quadrennial session this 6th day of May, 1874, hereby declares:

I. It is the steadfast belief of this body that Christ established but *one* Church, designing that all his followers, as members of that one body, should harmoniously work together for the salvation of the world. We are of the opinion that the present division of the Church into sects, and the attitude of these sects toward each other, are offensive to God, detract from the glory of the Saviour, and impede the reformation of the world.

II. It is our belief that entire unanimity of opinion upon matters of theological doctrine and ecclesiastical polity, is unattainable, so long as "we see through a glass darkly;" but that a unity of love, forbearance and co-operation is fully within the reach of all true christians.

III. We hail with joy the widespread and increasing desire among God's people to come into a closer relationship with one another, manifested in such meetings as those of the Evangelical Alliance, and represented by many periodicals of the day. It pleases us to know that Churches are springing into existence in various localities, composed of christians who are tired of sectarian intolerance; and desire to manifest their essential unity; and that "doubtful disputations" are sinking into disuse, while the great points of faith, common to all christians, are rising into due prominence.

IV. As an organization, it is the chief object of the Church we represent, to bring together all true christians upon a platform of mutual forbearance, common sympathies and fraternal love. We, therefore, offer the hand of fraternal greeting to all true followers of our blessed Redeemer, assuring them of our profound interest in their welfare, and soliciting their kindly sympathies and prayers. Holding these views and aims, we hereby declare our desire to co-operate with any and all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ, in performing the great work which he has assigned his Church. We have formed an organization merely to make our labors more effective; and we are ready to form a corporate union with any body of christians upon the basis of those great doctrines which underlie the religion of Christ. Clinging only to those fundamental truths, without which Christianity could not exist, we are ready to submit all minor matters to the decision of the individual conscience.

V. We suggest that something like the following be adopted as a

BASIS OF UNION.

1. *BELIEF*— (1) In God, as our Creator and Law Giver.
(2) In Christ, as our Divine Mediator and Redeemer.
(3) In the Holy Spirit, as our Comforter and Sanctifier.
(4) In the Bible as inspired by God, and the supreme standard of appeal in all matters of religion.
(5) In the sinfulness and lost condition of man.
(6(In the doctrine that salvation is a free gift of God, through Christ, and can be received and enjoyed only by faith.
(7) That love to God and men is the whole duty of man.
[8] That those who accept and obey the Gospel in this world will be happy in the world to come; while those who reject the Gospel in this life will be miserable forever.

2. The right to hold and express opinions not conflicting with the above articles of belief, is freely conceded to each individual member of the Church.

3. Nothing more ought to be demanded as a prerequisite to admission into the Church than a credible profession of "repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

4. The body should be called by some name sanctioned by Scripture usage;

either Christian Church, Church of Christ, or some other, equally significant and appropriate.

VI. With a view to forming and cultivating fraternal relationships with all christians who are like-minded with ourselves, we hereby invite correspondence from individual christians, independent local Churches, and other religious organizations. The President of the General Convention, or the Secretary of the same, will gladly answer all inquiries and give whatever information may be required.

May the God of all grace direct His people into a closer, more perfect unity, that the Saviour may be glorified and the world regenerated.

The report was taken up by sections. Rev. A. Iseley moved to amend subdivision 4, section 5, by striking out all after the word "*usage*". During an animated discussion, participated in by Rev. Bros. Iseley, Wellons, Whitley, S. Apple, C. A. Apple, and others, the Convention took a recess until 2 o'clock P. M.

In the interim the Convention and congregation listened to a sermon from Rev. C. A. Apple founded upon Genesis 3: 15: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Afternoon Session.

Convention met at 2 P. M. and proceeded with the consideration of Bro. Iseley's amendment. By general consent, Bro. Iseley withdrew his amendment. The question recurring upon the adoption of the original language of the report, the ayes and noes were called for, with the following result: *Ayes*: A. Apple, J. W. Wellons, Iseley, J. M. Moring, Manning, C. A. Apple, Whitley, King, Duck, Eley, and Rolston—11. *Noes*. W. S. Long. S. Apple, and Harden—3.

So the original article was adopted. The sections of the report having been adopted *seriatim*, the report was then adopted as a whole.

Rev. J. T. Whitley offered a resolution to publish two thousand copies of the Manifesto upon Christian Union, whereupon Bro. Jno. M. Moring offered the following as a substitute, which was adopted:

The General Christian Convention do

Resolve 1. That the proceedings of this Convention be published in the "Annual of the Christian Church."

2. That the Treasurer pay the costs of such publication, upon the warrant of the President, countersigned by the Chairman of the Committee on Publications.

3. That the President of the Convention may cause the Secretary to send attested copies of such parts of the proceedings, as he may deem essential, to the Secretaries of the several Conferences composing this Convention.

4. That the Standing Committee on Publications print and circulate such a number of the circulars on Christian Union as they may think best.

A communication was presented by Rev. W. S. Long, from Rev. J. W. Heath, a fraternal messenger from the Methodist Protestant Conference of North Carolina, to this body, sending greeting and good wishes from his Conference to this Convention, and expressing the hope that a closer bond of union may be formed between the two bodies.

On motion, the President and Secretary of this Convention were instructed to send a copy of the circular letter upon Christian Union, adopted by this body, to the Methodist Protestant Conference of North Carolina, and to make such further response to the letter of the fraternal messenger from that body, as they may deem necessary.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing four years:

On Schools and Colleges.—J. N. Manning, W. S. Long, Jos. King, C. A. Apple, Jno. M. Moring.

On Home Missions.—J. W. Wellons, A. Apple, Jno. S. Lawrence, A. Iseley, I. W. Duck.

On Publications.—C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley, S. Apple, Jos. King, C. J. Rolston.

On Finance.—Wm. Eley, W. K. Martin, I. W. Duck, P. R. Harden, A. Moring.

On motion, the name of the President was added to the Committees on Schools and Colleges, Publications, and Finance.

There being no further business the proceedings of to-day were read and approved.

On motion, the Convention then adjourned, *sine die*. After a short address by the President, and the usual religious services, the Convention rose, the benediction was pronounced, and the members separated for their homes.

W. B. WELLONS, PRESIDENT.

C. A. APPLE, SECRETARY.

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

The Christian Church at Holy Neck, Oct. 28, 29, 30, and 31, 1874.

HOLY NECK, NANSEMOND CO., VA., }
October 28th, 1874. }

The EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE began its fifty-fourth annual session here to-day. A beautiful voluntary hymn was sung by the choir, after which religious services were conducted by Rev. C. A. Apple, by reading a part of the 2d chapter of Luke, and announcing the hymn,

"Salvation! O the joyful sound."

After the singing of this hymn by the congregation, prayer was offered by Rev. J. W. Wellons, of North Carolina.

Rev. C. A. Apple, President of the last session, then called the Conference to order, and directed the Secretary to call the roll of Ministers and Churches.

On calling the roll, the following ministers and lay-delegates answered to their names:

MINISTERS: *Elders:* W. B. Wellons, D. D., R. H. Holland, M. B. Barrett, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley, and E. W. Beale.

LICENTIATES: J. Pressley Barrett, John T. Kitchen.

LAY-DELEGATES: *Antioch*—T. J. Clements, A. M. Eley, S. J. Carr, Geo. W. Eley. *Barrett's*—R. H. Rollings. *Bethlehem*—Richard Copeland, Thomas Parker, R. J. Bartlett. *Berea*, [Nansemond,]—Col. Alex. Savage, W. J. Lee. *Cypress*—C. C. Riddick. *Damascus*—Geo. J. Costen. *Hebron*—J. H. Daughtrey, Beverly Holland. *Holy Neck*—J. R. Jones, Z. E. Holland, Dr. R. C. Everett, I. W. Everett. *Ivor*—R. P. Bell, D. N. Rawls. *Johnson's Grove*—J. W. Johnson, James Butler. *Liberty*—C. Miller, Jas. E. Wood. *Liberty Spring*—A. J. Raby. *Mt. Carmel*—T. M. Murray, J. T. Cox. *Oakland*—Dempsey Whitehead, T. J. Saunders. *Providence*—L. C. Ives, *Sharon*—S. D. Burnham, P. C. Pearce. *Spring Hill*—Dr. O. H. Baird, H. T. West. *Suffolk*—Joseph King.—[For full list of members see statistical table.]

A quorum being present, an election was then held for Presi-

dent, W. B. Wellons, D. D., in the Chair. The election resulted in the choice of Rev. John N. Manning, who was escorted to the Chair by the retiring President.

Rev. J. T. Whitley was elected Assistant Secretary.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, the Conference invited to seats as deliberative members, Rev. J. W. Wellons and Rev. R. C. Tuck, of the North Carolina Conference. These brethren accepted the invitation in a few appropriate remarks.

The body then took a recess to hear the annual sermon, which was preached by Rev. J. T. Whitley, from 1st Samuel vii: 12: "*Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.*"

Immediately thereafter, business was resumed.

The following order of meetings and adjournments was adopted for the present session: meet at 9½ o'clock A. M., and adjourn at 12 M., for preaching and dinner; meet immediately after dinner and adjourn at will.

The Standing Committees on Sunday Schools and Temperance, which are required by law to report on the first day of each annual session, asked to be allowed to offer their reports to-morrow, which request was granted.

On motion, Rev. C. A. Apple, Dr. R. C. Everett, J. R. Jones, Z. E. Holland and I. W. Everett, were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported Rev. E. W. Beale to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

The body then adjourned. Prayer was offered by Rev. M. B. Barrett, and the benediction was pronounced by the President.

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[Second Day.]

October 29, 1874.

The Conference met this morning and was called to order by the President.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. R. C. Tuck.

The roll was called, and the proceedings of yesterday's session were read and approved.

The following lay-delegates arrived and reported their presence: Daniel H. Byrd, from Cypress; Thomas Vaughn, from Union; and Elisha Everett, from Berea, [Nansemond.]

On motion, and by consent of all parties, Brother Elisha Everett was declared a regular delegate from Berea, and Brother W. J. Lee, the alternate, withdrew in his favor.

The President called for reports from the Churches, and reports were read from the following: Antioch, Barrett's, Bethlehem, Berea, [Nansemond,] Berea, [Norfolk,] Cypress Chapel, Damascus, Hebron, Holy Neck, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Liberty, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Providence, Sharon, Spring Hill, Suffolk, and Union. [These reports are given in a tabulated form in the Statistical table farther on.]

Brother Joel H. Brinkley, a delegate from Liberty Spring Church, arrived and took his seat; also James R. Parker, from Cypress.

Rev. C. J. Rolston, of the Virginia Valley Conference, being present, was invited to a seat as a deliberative member. Brother Rolston replied in a few fitting words.

Members coming in after the opening of Conference were called upon for their excuses, according to law, and the following rendered their reasons for tardiness and were excused: Elisha Everett, Daniel H. Byrd, Joel H. Brinkley, James R. Parker, and Thomas Vaughn.

By direction of the President, the Rules of Order were read by the Secretary.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, the Chair appointed the following members a Special Committee on Periodicals: Rev. C. A. Apple, Col. Alex. Savage, and Dr. O. H. Baird.

On motion, a Committee to examine the records of the local Churches was appointed, consisting of Rev. E. W. Beale, Prof. Joseph King, and Dr. R. C. Everett.

Reports were then called for and read from the following ministers: S. S. Barrett, M. B. Barrett, E. W. Beale, C. A. Apple, J. N. Manning, Robert Rawls, C. J. Rolston, R. C. Tuck, W. B. Wellons, J. T. Whitley, John T. Kitchen and J. P. Barrett. [Extracts from the letters are given elsewhere in these minutes.]

The hour for preaching having arrived, the Conference took a recess. During the recess an impressive sermon was delivered by Rev. E. W. Beale, from Matt. ix: 37, 38: "*Then said he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.*"

AFTERNOON SESSION.]

The labors of Conference were resumed.

The following delegates reported their presence, gave their excuse for tardiness, and were excused: Josiah Wilkins, from Cypress, and John T. Nurney, from Suffolk.

Leave of absence was granted Bro. Geo. J. Costen, of Damascus, until Saturday morning.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, from the Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools, offered the following

REPORT.

As your Committee on Sunday Schools, it gratifies us to report that the number of Schools exceeds the number of Churches in the Conference. While every Church in the body, except two, has its School, some Churches are maintaining flourishing missions in addition to the home School, and are thus using the surest means of propagating our principles and enlarging our borders.

We regret that some of our Schools deem it proper to suspend their exercises during the winter. We can see no adequate reason for this action, and respectfully protest against it. No reason can be given for discontinuing the Sunday School, that may not be urged with equal force in favor af suspending secular schools and the public worship of God in the sanctuary.

Fully recognizing the power of the press, we are glad to bring to the attention of Conference THE LITTLE CHRISTIAN, a semi-monthly paper, edited by a member of this committee, and published in the interest of our Sunday Schools. This little sheet, originating since our last session, has already attained a fair circulation, and strongly appeals to the sympathies and patronage of this Conference. Its managers propose to publish Bible Lessons in each issue after the present year, which, it is hoped, will contribute materially to the interest of the paper and the success of our Schools.

J. T. WHITLEY,
M. B. BARRETT, } Committee.
JOHN OBERRY.

Rev. Dr. Wellons moved the adoption of the report, and followed his motion with some earnest remarks in favor of continuing the Schools through the winter.

He was followed by Rev. C. A. Apple, urging the claims of *The Little Christian*, and commending the Bible Lessons to be published therein.

The chairman of the committee advocated the adoption of the report, thought Schools should continue through the winter, and explained at length the Bible Lesson feature of the Sunday School paper.

The report was then adopted.

Rev. W. B. Wellons, by request, made an interesting statement concerning a recent Union Convention recently held in the city of Cincinnati.

The body then adjourned. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. John T. Kitchen.

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[THIRD DAY.]

October 30, 1874.

The body met this morning, and was called to order by the President. Religious exercises were conducted by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

The roll of ministers and delegates was called and absentees noted.

A difficulty having arisen concerning the respective rights of principal delegates and alternates to represent local Churches, in cases where the alternate arrives and is enrolled first, Rev. C. A. Apple moved to reconsider the vote of yesterday, by which Bro. Elisha Everett, of Berea, was seated instead of Bro. W. J. Lee. The motion prevailed.

Rev. C. A. Apple then offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That alternates from local Churches, appearing in the place of regular delegates, and being recognized as members of Conference, shall not subsequently vacate their seats, even though the regularly chosen delegates should afterwards appear.

The resolution was agreed to.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, Bros. I. W. Duck and Elisha Everett were invited to seats as deliberative members, they having been excluded from seats by not arriving until after their alternates had been enrolled as members of Conference.

Rev. J. N. Manning, from the standing Committee on Temperance, handed in the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Temperance report that notwithstanding the efforts made by the Church and numerous temperance societies to abate the evil arising from the use of intoxicating liquors—and these efforts in many places are most industriously made—yet the enormous proportions of this prince of destruction are not perceptibly contracted, but still cast a blighting shade all over the land, with cheerless darkness to thousands of homes, filling numberless hearts with sadness and crushing grief.

We recommend that the use of the means heretofore employed be continued, and that the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage be discountenanced, and that we endeavor to instil the principles of sobriety and temperance into the minds of our children and the youths of our Sabbath Schools, and, if possible, excite a loathing of drunkenness. We think very much may be done by holding up before the young drunkenness with contempt and scorn, and inducing them to regard intemperance with disgust. There is but little hope of reforming the drunkard; habitual indulgence in ardent spirits is close akin to a disease for which there is no remedy. The surest way to success is by working with the young, and properly educating them and training them in the paths of sobriety. All the present drunkards will soon pass away, and if we can only prevent any more being made we will do a good work and most effectually accomplish our purpose.

Temperance ought to be regarded as a necessary element of our religion, and made to enter largely into the lessons of the Sabbath in the Sunday School and the regular services of the Church. Let temperance join hands with charity, fidelity and praise, and thus glorify God by aggregating the chief, if not all, the virtues of a saint.

Your Committee think that earnest efforts in these ways may ensure a measure of success in some sense commensurate with the pressing want now so painfully felt.

Respectfully submitted.

J. N. MANNING,
E. W. BEALE,
R. H. HOLLAND.

In discussing the report, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., took the floor, and made an earnest appeal in favor of abandoning the traffic and use as a beverage of alcoholic liquors.

He was followed by Rev. J. T. Whitley, who thought the principal work of temperance among us should be done in the local Churches.

After remarks by Rev. C. A. Apple and Rev. J. N. Manning, the report was slightly amended.

Rev. J. W. Wellons took the floor, and made a few interesting remarks.

The report was then unanimously adopted as it appears above.

Rev. C. A. Apple, from the special Committee on Periodicals, offered the following

REPORT:

We, your special Committee on Periodicals, beg leave to report:

That the condition of our periodical literature is perhaps more flourishing than at any previous time in the history of our church. THE CHRISTIAN SUN, overcoming many difficulties, is, we believe, gaining steadily in strength and influence, and is making impressions for good, not only among our own people, but also among lovers of true, liberal Christianity in widely separated sections of the country. We most heartily endorse that paper and recommend it to the support of our people.

During the last Conference year a paper, designed to promote the interest of the Sunday School work, has been set on foot through the enterprise of Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., and Rev. J. T. Whitley; the former as publisher and the latter as editor. This paper, entitled the "LITTLE CHRISTIAN," is published semi-monthly, and has already attained, though only begun in May last, a success fully equal to the expectations of its friends. Still its subscription list is not yet large enough to make it a financial success. The editor contemplates introducing into this paper at an early day Bible Lessons for the use of our Sunday School classes. This, we think, will be a very marked improvement, and should largely increase the circulation of the paper.

Respectfully submitted.

C. A. APPLE,
ALEX. SAVAGE,
O. H. BAIRD.

Rev. C. A. Apple explained and advocated the report, after which it was adopted.

Fraternal Messengers appointed at the last session to attend sister Conferences, were called upon for reports. Those who had discharged the duty assigned them reported, and those who were unable to do so were excused.

Conference then took a recess, and an earnest sermon was delivered by Rev. J. W. Wellons, from Heb. xii. 28: "*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

The President called the body to order after the recess.

Leave of absence for the remainder of the session was granted to Bros. T. M. Murray, J. T. Nurney, Dempsey Whitehead and T. J. Saunders; also, to Bro. S. J. Carr for this afternoon.

The delegates from this body to the General Convention of the Christian Church, held in May, 1873, at Graham, N. C., reported their attendance. Rev. J. N. Manning, one of the delegates, called attention to the recommendation of the Convention to local Churches to elect their Pastor for indefinite terms, instead of year by year, and moved the adoption of it as the sense of this body.

The motion was opposed by Bros. I. W. Duck, Josiah Wilkins, Rev. R. H. Holland, and John Oberry, by permission, and advocated by Rev. J. T. Whitley and Rev. C. A. Apple. Rev. Dr. Wellons made some explanatory remarks, after which the motion was submitted to vote, and lost by a large majority.

Rev. J. W. Wellons was allowed to address the Conference upon the subject of a book of Family Prayers published by him.

On motion, the body went into the election of Fraternal Messengers to other Conferences. To the North Carolina Conference, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., and Rev. M. B. Barrett were elected. To the Virginia Valley Conference, Rev. J. T. Whitley and Rev. R. H. Holland were elected. Rev. Dr. Wellons was elected to the Deep River Valley Conference.

On motion, the Conference decided to hold its next annual session at Berea Church, Nansemond county, Va.

Rev. C. A. Apple was chosen to preach the annual sermon.

Conference then adjourned with the benediction.

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[Fourth Day.]

October 31, 1874.

The Conference resumed its labors this morning, and devotional services were conducted by Rev. C. A. Apple.

The roll was called.

On motion, the rule requiring tardy delegates to give excuses for delay was suspended for the time being.

Bro. T. M. Murray having received leave of absence for the remainder of the session, on motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Deacon I. W. Duck was enrolled as a delegate from Mt. Carmel in his stead.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read, corrected and approved.

Leave of absence was granted to Brothers S. D. Burnham and P. C. Pearce after noon to-day.

Rev. E. W. Beale, from the Committee on Church Records, made the subjoined

REPORT:

We, the committee appointed to examine the Records of the Churches composing this Conference, beg leave to report that we have carefully examined the records of the following Churches, viz., Antioch, Hebron, Holy Neck, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Providence, Spring Hill and Suffolk, and find them, with one or two exceptions, kept in a neat and orderly manner. Your committee would suggest that "Articles of Agreement" be kept separate and apart from the other records, and that a little more care be exercised on the part of a few of the Secretaries in regard to spelling and the rules of grammar. No records were handed in from the following Churches: Barrett's, Bethlehem, Berea (Nansemond), Berea (Norfolk), Cypress, Damascus, Liberty, Liberty Spring, Sharon and Union.

Respectfully submitted.

E. W. BEALE,
JOSEPH KING,
R. C. EVERETT.

After a few remarks from various members, the report was adopted.

Rev. C. A. Apple offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this Conference are due and are hereby tendered to Rev. J. T. Whitley, for the very able and instructive sermon delivered by him at the opening of the present session, and that a copy be requested of him for publication, by consent of the editor, in the *Christian Sun*.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

On motion, a committee of persons not members of the body was requested to collect funds to defray the expenses of Rev. Dr. Wellons and Rev. J. N. Manning to the recent Union Christian Convention in the city of Cincinnati.

Rev. C. A. Apple presented the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That, in the opinion of this body, members withdrawing from one Church and uniting with another, should be required in all cases to show certificates of good standing as to christian character and the payment of dues, whenever it is possible to obtain such certificates within a space of six months or less.

After a few explanatory remarks by the author of the resolution, it was adopted.

Rev. Dr. Wellons, from the committee appointed to supervise the interest of the colored ministers and Churches, made a verbal report, announcing that a Conference of colored Ministers and Churches had been organized during the year, and that the prospects of the colored people in their ecclesiastical operations are favorable.

On motion, Rev. R. H. Holland and Rev. J. N. Manning were appointed to attend the next session of the colored Conference and assist them in their business.

Rev. C. A. Apple presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

RESOLVED, That, in the opinion of this Conference, the pastoral relations between local Churches and their pastors should not be dissolved with less than six months' notice on either side, except by mutual consent.

The President announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

On Education: Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. J. T. Whitley. [The Conference added Rev. J. N. Manning, President of the body.]

On Sunday Schools: Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. M. B. Barrett, Brother John Oberry.

On Temperance: Rev. R. H. Holland, Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. J. T. Kitchen.

On Home Missions: Colonel Alex. Savage, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., Brothers I. W. Duck, H. T. West, and T. J. Clements.

Executive Committee: Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., Rev. E. W. Beale, and Rev. C. A. Apple.

The Committee on Education submitted a report, which, on motion, was taken up by items and disposed of.

REPORT.

The Committee on Education submit the following report:

The Suffolk Collegiate Institute, the child of this Conference, is, in many respects, in a more prosperous condition than ever before, though the number of students is not quite so large as it was a year ago. The School is growing in influence, and the future is full of hope.

There is still due on the buildings $725, which amount has been borrowed from bank; and in addition to this, there are some other debts amounting to about $150, which amount has been advanced by the Chairman of the Board of Stockholders. There is still due on the old subscription $719, but we cannot hope to collect at any time half of this amount. The note in bank is now over due, and those responsible for the amount have delayed its renewal until the meeting of this body. We are still waiting in the hope that the Church will relieve the school of the embarrassment it is suffering from these causes.

During the past year four ministerial students under the care of this body have received gratuitous instruction in the Institute, and now that two of these will leave, another will probably enter.

The present Faculty of the Institute is giving general satisfaction to its patrons, the new instructors proving fully equal to the excellent members who retired at the close of the last session.

Brothers John T. Kitchen and J. Pressley Barrett, who became Licentiates a year ago, have been pursuing their studies the greater part of the year and have preached regularly most of the time. Their labors have been successful, and their ordination has been suggested by the Churches they have served. But, though they have progressed in literary and Bible knowledge during the year, they have not quite reached the standard of learning fixed by our Form of Government, and are scarcely prepared just now for ordination. We recommend that the Conference make some arrangement to still farther educate them before elevating them to the office of elder.

Nathan B. Munford and Harrison H. Butler, the other two members of the Ministerial Class, have been at school all the past year, and are making some progress. We hope these young brethren will be continued at the Suffolk Collegiate Institute by the liberality of Conference.

Charles Kane, a young man, comes as an applicant for admission into the Class, recommended by the Church at Cypress Chapel. Though of a limited education, he appears to possess a good natural mind and a devout spirit, and we commend him to

the fostering care of this body, and hope the funds may be forthcoming to send him to school.

We suggest to this body to raise, if possible, $500 for the education of young ministers.

Respectfully submitted.

W. B. WELLONS,
J. N. MANNING,
J. T. WHITLEY.

The section referring to the Suffolk Collegiate Institute was adopted, and in connection therewith, the following resolution, by Brother I. W. Duck, was adopted:

RESOLVED, That the amount now due on the Suffolk Collegiate Institute be divided into quarter shares of twenty-five dollars, and that an attempt be now made to have these shares taken.

On making an effort to dispose of the stock alluded to, the following persons took quarter shares of $25 each: I. W. Duck, W. B. Wellons, Mrs. Virginia Lawrence, P. H. Lee; one quarter share was taken jointly by W. E. Darden and J. L. Darden.

The Conference then took a recess, during which Professor Joseph King, of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, read a carefully-prepared and able address on the subject of Education.

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

The Conference came to order at the call of the President.

The section of the Report on Education referring to the Licentiates was taken up and adopted.

The section relating to N. B. Munford and H. H. Butler was adopted.

The section relating to Charles Kane was adopted.

The section concerning the raising of money for the education of young men for the ministry was agreed to.

A subscription was started for the purpose of raising funds to educate young ministers, which resulted in the subscription of $303.50.

On motion, the chairman of the Educational Committee was instructed to appoint two agents in each Church to collect provisions and money for the support of young men studying for the ministry.

The Report on Education was then adopted as a whole.

The Committee on Home Missions made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Home Missions submit the following: In counsel with the delegates of the several Churches composing this Conference, we ascertain that the following arrangements for pastoral service for the ensuing year have been perfected:

Antioch and Spring Hill.....J. T. Whitley
Barrett's and Mt. Carmel.....M. B. Barrett

Berea (Nansemond), Cypress, Oakland and Damascus.....E. W. Beale
Berea (Norfolk), Providence and Sharon.....R. C. Tuck
Hebron, Ivor, Liberty Spring and Union.....C. J. Rolston
Holy Neck.....C. A. Apple
Liberty.....J. T. Kitchen
Johnson's Grove.....J. P. Barrett
Suffolk and Bethlehem.....W. B. Wellons, D.D.

Elders R. Rawls, S. S. Barrett, R. H. Holland and R. H. Costen have received no regular appointments.

We respectfully refer the supplying of the Church at Jerusalem, and the Mission now in charge of Rev. J. N. Manning at Norfolk, to a Committee of the Whole in Conference assembled.

Respectfully submitted.

ALEX. SAVAGE,
I. W. DUCK,
W. B. WELLONS.

The report was unanimously adopted.

On motion, Rev. J. N. Manning was continued in charge of the Norfolk Mission, and Jerusalem Church, in the village of Berkley, was placed under the care of the Committee on Home Missions.

Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., who had been Secretary of the Conference for many years, tendered his resignation, which was accepted, and the body, by a rising vote, offered him sincere thanks for his long and faithful services.

Rev. J. T. Whitley was unanimously elected Standing Secretary of the Conference.

On motion of Rev. E. W. Beale, a unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to the officers of Conference for a faithful discharge of duty, and to the members of the community in which Conference was held, for their princely hospitality.

The roll of Churches was then called, and the various delegates signified how many copies of the *Christian Annual* they would take.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to publish the proceedings of the present session in the *Christian Annual* for 1874.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the Conference tendered its hearty thanks to Professor Joseph King of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, for his able and eloquent address on Education delivered before Conference to-day, and he was requested to deliver the same address at as many places within the Conference as he may find it convenient to visit.

Rev. J. N. Manning was announced to preach to-morrow (Sunday) at 11 o'clock.

The body then adjourned, to meet at Berea, Nansemond county, Va., on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November, 1875. The closing devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. W. B. Wellons.

J. N. MANNING, *President.*

J. T. WHITLEY, *Secretary.*

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

C. A. Apple.—Have labored for the past year as pastor of the Churches at Bethlehem and Holy Neck, preaching twice a month at each. Delivered about 70 sermons and addresses, received about 12 members, baptized 7 or 8, married 6 couples. Have taught a high school regularly, and have performed the usual number of funeral services.

M. B. Barrett.—Have had pastoral charge of the Churches at Barrett's, Mt. Carmel and Union, preaching to each once a month. Held a protracted meeting at each of my own Churches, and assisted in four others. Preached 100 sermons, 15 funeral discourses, and delivered 4 Sunday School lectures. Received 50 new members, baptized 47, married 20 couples.

S. S. Barrett.—Have worked where opportunity offered. Preached part of the year two Sundays in each month at Liberty. Married four couples and preached one funeral. Have preached some for the Baptists and Methodists. Intend to work wherever I can do good.

E. W. Beale.—Have had pastoral care of Cypress, Berea (Nansemond), Oakland and Damascus. Preached about 80 sermons, 9 funeral discourses, married 7 couples, baptized 33, and received 94 members into Church-fellowship. Have had 133 conversions in my charge. Have accomplished the rebuilding of Damascus Church, had prayer-meetings in three Churches, and enjoyed the most successful year of my ministry.

J. N. Manning.—Have labored in the interest of the Norfolk Mission. Have canvassed the Conference and preached at various Churches. Preached about 60 times. The prospect is good for the success of our cause in Norfolk at an early day.

Robert Rawls.—Have had no pastoral charge, but have done what I could. Preached about twelve times and held a large number of prayer-meetings, and celebrated five or six marriages.

C. J. Rolston.—Have served the Churches at Liberty Spring, Hebron and Ivor, and preached once a month at Barrett's. Held meetings at the three Churches of my charge, and had 124 conversions. Assisted in several other meetings. Attended the General Convention and the Virginia Valley Conference. Have taught school part of the time. Preached 110 sermons, delivered a number of Sabbath School lectures, preached 8 funeral sermons, received 83 persons into the Church, baptized 60 and married 3 couples.

R. C. Tuck.—Have had charge of the Churches at Providence, Berea (Norfolk county), and Sharon. Have had in my charge 46 conversions, and received 25 into the Church.

W. B. Wellons.—Have had charge of the Church in Suffolk, and preached 94 times, held 58 prayer-meetings, 12 conference meetings, had 2 revivals, with about 30 conversions. Dedicated two Churches and assisted to dedicate a third, and have preached at several Churches in the Conference. Preached 42 funeral sermons and married 15 couples. Attended one Annual Conference besides our own, and the General Convention at Graham. Have edited the *Christian Sun* and published the *Little Christian*. Discharged the duties of President of the General Convention, President of a Sunday School Convention, and Agent of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute.

J. T. Whitley.—Have served the Churches at Antioch and Spring Hill, preaching twice a month at each place. Preached two Sunday nights in the month at Windsor, and two Sunday afternoons in the month at Sunnyside, besides occasionally at other places. Held three protracted meetings and had 134 conversions, and have attended three meetings outside of my own charge. Have married nine couples and preached several funeral discourses. Besides pastoral work, have edited the *Little Christian*.

J. T. Kitchen.—Have pursued my studies at the Suffolk Collegiate Institute most of the time. Attended protracted meetings for eight weeks. Preached twice a month at Liberty, and fifth Sundays at Oakland. Have preached 57 times.

J. Pressley Barrett.—Have preached for the Churches at Johnson's Grove and Union, each monthly; attended the Suffolk Collegiate Institute; organized the society of "Christ's Little Workers;" preached 60 sermons and 2 funeral discourses; delivered 72 lectures of a religious character; held 20 prayer-meetings; made 135 pastoral visits; 23 visits to sick persons; had 103 conversions, received 48 new members; held 2 protracted meetings, and aided in 8 others; have travelled 3,000 miles. Feel much encouraged.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Reported Last Session.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Sunday Schools.	Connected with Sunday Schools.	Paid Pastor.	To Educate Young Preachers.	For Other Purposes.	Whole Amount.	Value of Church Property.
Antioch	J. T. Whitley	T. J. Clements, A. M. Eley, S. J. Carr, G. W. Eley,	543	22	4	2	3	8	548	2	261	$400.00	$25	$92.00	$517.00	$3,000
Barrett's	M. B. Barrett	R. H. Rollings	153	22	2	...	...	2	171	1	114	100.00	10	165.00	275.00	1,000
Bethlehem	C. A. Apple	R Copeland, T Parker, R J Bartlett	219	...	4	2	1	7	196	1	70	175.00	10		185.00	300
Berea (Nans'd)	E. W. Beale	Alex. Savage, W. J. Lee	82	...	...	7	4	...	71	1	58	166.67	20	175.00	361.67	1,500
Berea (Norfolk)	R. C. Tuck	No Delegate present	72	12	...	...	...	2	82	1	40	125.00			125.00	2,000
Cypress	E. W. Beale	Josiah Wilkins, J. R. Parker, C. C. Riddick, D. H. Byrd,	346	26	2	2	4	...	364	1	59	296.66	15	35.00	346.66	1,100
Damascus	E. W. Beale	George J. Costen	102	51	1	...	1	...	153	...		125.00	20	500.00	645.00	1,100
Hebron	C. J. Rolston	Beverley Holland, J.H. Daughtrey	92	30	...	...	...	1	121	2	92	75.00	10	10.00	95.00	1,000
Holy Neck	C. A. Apple	Z. E. Holland, I. W. Everett, J. R. Jones, R. C. Everett,	404	7	...	2	2	6	401	2	100	200.00	20	186.50	406.50	1,500
Ivor	C. J. Rolston	R. P. Bell, D. N. Rawls	23	18	...	5	...	1	35	1	72	50.00		15.00	65.00	1,000
Jerusalem			33	...	...	...	...	...	33	...						800
Johnson'sGrove	J. P. Barrett	J. W. Johnson, James Butler	28	33	...	...	...	...	61	1	62	30.00			30.00	800
Liberty	J. T. Kitchen	C. Miller, Jas. E. Wood	15	35	1	...	2	...	47	1	46	100.00		60.00	160.00	1,300
Liberty Spring	C. J. Rolston	A. J. Raby, J. H. Brinkley	60	30	...	...	2	...	88	1	74	60.00		40.00	100.00	1,000
Mt. Carmel	M. B. Barrett	T. M. Murray, J. T. Cox	113	23	...	1	1	5	129	1	113	100.00	25	25.00	150.00	1,200
Oakland	E. W. Beale	D. Whitehead, T. J. Saunders	41	20	...	1	1	...	60	1	62	136.67	10	47.00	193.67	1,000
Providence	R. C. Tuck	L. C. Ives	70	2	1	...	2	...	69	1	58	225.00	10	50.00	285.00	1,500
Sharon	R. C. Tuck	P. C. Pearce, S. D. Burnham	30	16	...	...	...	...	46	1	49	75.00			75.00	400
Spring Hill	J. T. Whitley	O. H. Baird, H. T. West	143	21	2	1	1	3	157	2	109	225.00	15	12.00	252.00	1,200
Suffolk	W. B. Wellons	J. T. Nurney, Joseph King	170	22	2	5	1	1	183	1	172	700.00	20	400.00	1,120.00	3,000
Union	M. B. Barrett	Thomas Vaughan	71	5	1	...	...	1	74	1	35	75.00		25.00	100.00	1,200
			2810	395	20	28	25	37	3089	23	1646	3,440.00	$210	1,837.50	5,487.50	26,900

MINUTES

OF THE

Valley Virginia Christian Conference,

HELD AT

ANTIOCH, ROCKINGHAM CO., VA., OCTOBER 8th, 9th AND 10th, 1874.

ANTIOCH, ROCKINGHAM CO., VA., *October 8th*, 1874.

The VALLEY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled here to-day in its sixth annual session, and was called to order by Bro. Jesse Burkholder, President of last session.

The standing Secretary called the roll and the following ministers and lay-delegates were reported present:

ELDERS: Geo. W. Woods, C. J. Rolston.

LICENTIATE: John C. Williams.

LAY-DELEGATES: *Antioch*—D. F. Lineweaver, C. A. Henton. *Linville*—John C. Williams, A. R. Rineheart. *Dayton*——— *Soliloquy*—Ephraim Woods, Geo. W. Stilwell. *Plains*——— *Bethlehem*—Geo. W. Woods. *Valley*———

A quorum being present, Bro. Jesse Burkholder, President of the last session, called upon Rev. C. J. Rolston to lead the body in devotional exercise.

It was then announced that nominations for President were in order.

D. F. Lineweaver nominated Jesse Burkholder. There being no other nomination the Secretary proceeded to take the vote, which resulted in the election of Bro. Jesse Burkholder. Bro. Burkholder, the President, on taking the chair in a brief speech thanked Conference for the renewal of confidence, and pledged to serve them to the best of his ability.

On motion of Bro. Lineweaver, the Secretary, was granted the privilege of selecting his own assistant.

The Annual Address being next in order, on motion of D. F. Lineweaver, the delivering was postponed until Saturday morning at 11 o'clock.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, Rev. J. C. Williams, D. F. Lineweaver and C. A. Henton were appointed a Committee on Religious exercise during the present session.

On motion of J. C. Williams, the following schedule for meeting and adjournment each day, was adopted: Meet at 9½

o'clock A. M., and adjourn at 11 A. M., for service; meet at 1½ P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion of C. A. Henton, Revs. C. J. Rolston, Geo. W. Woods, and J. C. Williams were appointed a Committee on Memoir of Rev. N. B. Kiracofe.

The Committee on Religious Exercise then reported the Rev. G. W. Woods to preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M., and Rev. C. J. Rolston at 7 o'clock P. M.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, Conference adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9½ o'clock. Religious service was conducted by Rev. J. C. Williams.

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[Second Day.]

October 9th, 1874.

Conference was called to order by the President.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Geo. W. Woods.

The proceedings of yesterday's session were read and adopted.

The Committee on Rules and By-Laws then submitted their report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT:

This Conference shall be governed by the following Rules:

1. The President shall take the chair at the hour to which the Conference adjourned, and call Conference to order.

2. Each morning session shall be opened with religious exercise, and each afternoon session shall be closed in the same way, under the direction of the President.

3. At the opening of each daily session the Secretary shall read the proceedings of the previous day, and Conference correct and prepare them for registration.

4. It shall be the duty of the President, or the privilege of a member, to call any brother to order who may indulge in personal reflection in debate.

5. The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Conference, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once.

6. The President shall appoint all Committees, unless otherwise ordered by Conference.

7. The President may participate in debate, by calling a member to the chair.

8. The President shall vote on no question, except in case of a tie or when the vote is taken by ballot or by ayes and nays.

9. No member shall speak on any question without rising from his seat and respectfully addressing the chair as Mr. President.

10. Members are required to vote in all cases, unless excused by the Conference.

11. All Delegates are required to be present at the opening of the Conference and remain until the close, unless excused by Conference.

12. Any member being absent at the opening of Conference shall render his excuse to Conference for tardiness.

13. No motion shall be debated or entertained unless the same has been seconded.

14. All motions and resolutions made and seconded shall be open for debate, except the motions to adjourn and to lie on the table, which questions shall be decided without debate.

15. The decision of all questions shall be by "aye" or "nay." The ayes and nays shall be recorded upon the journal by the call of one-fifth of the members present.

16. All motions, resolutions and amendments shall be reduced to writing if required by the Secretary.

17. All reports of Committees shall be made in writing.
18. These rules shall be read at the opening of each annual session of Conference.
19. These rules of order shall not be suspended or altered, except by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

The President then called for the reports from the various Churches.

Reports from Antioch, Linville, Bethlehem, Soliloquy and Plains were read.

A letter from the Church at Locus Grove, Shenandoah county, Va., was read, asking admission in Conference.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, the Church at Locust Grove was admitted into Conference.

The Secretary then read a letter from the Rev. F. M. Cummings, of Yankton Ridge, Ohio, addressed to the President of the Virginia Valley Christian Conference, asking should he organize Churches out there on our platform, whether they would be considered a part of that body or a kind of Missionary Society.

After some deliberation on the matter, on motion of C. A. Henton, it was referred to a special committee, this committee being directed to report to the Executive Committee of the Conference. Committee—Elders C. J. Rolston, George Woods, and Brother D. F. Lineweaver.

Ministerial reports were then called for.

Reports from Elders George W. Woods and C. J. Rolston were read.

Brothers Harding and J. M. Calhoon having been absent from Conference for some time, and failing to render any report, Rev. C. J. Rolston moved that the President be directed to correspond with these brethren and learn the cause of their failing to discharge their duty.

Conference then took a recess, during which Rev. G. W. Woods delivered an earnest discourse from the words, "Behold he prayeth."

[Afternoon Session.]

The President in the chair.

Prayer by Brother C. A. Henton.

The President then called for the Report on Sabbath Schools.

REPORT.

Your Committee beg leave to report the Sabbath School work is going on prosperously in the bounds of our Conference. The system of teaching is on the advance. All the Churches with the exception of two, have Sabbath Schools, and we hope they will soon fall into ranks.

The *Little Christian*, edited by Rev. J T. Whitley, and published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., we find, has been a very great help to our Schools, and would urge upon all of our Schools to use the paper.

Respectfully submitted,

D. F. LINEWEAVER, Chairman.

After short addresses by Revs. C. J. Rolston, G. W. Woods, J. C. Williams and Brother D. F. Lineweaver, the report was adopted.

The Committee on Temperance submitted their report.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance beg leave to report:

We are glad to report that there are none of our members engaged in the liquor traffic, and, so far as we have been able to learn, none who indulge too freely. Your Committee would urge upon the Sabbath Schools to instil the principles of Temperance in the minds of the pupils. We think that is the proper place for teaching the principles of Temperance.

Respectfully submitted. C. J. ROLSTON, Chairman.

After some discussion, the report was adopted.

On motion of C. A. Henton, Revs. C. J. Rolston, G. W. Woods and John C. Williams were appointed a Committee on Periodicals.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, C. A. Henton, John C. Williams and J. F. Lineweaver were appointed a Committee on Church Records.

The Committee on Religious Exercises then reported that the Annual Address would be delivered to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M., and that the Rev. J. C. Williams would preach at 7½ P. M.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, Conference adjourned.

Religious exercises were then conducted by Rev. George W. Woods.

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[Third Day.]

October 10, 1874.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President.

Prayer by Brother George Stilwell.

The proceedings of yesterday were read, and, after some corrections, were approved.

The President then called for the reports of the delegates to the General Convention.

Rev. C. J. Rolston, alternate for N. B. Kiracofe, reported that he had attended the Convention and discharged the responsible duties to the very best of his ability. He further stated that the most of them had seen the most important transaction of the Convention—that was the Manifesto set forth by the Convention.

Bro. C. A. Henton rendered his excuse for not discharging the duty assigned him by Conference.

On motion of Rev. George W. Woods, he was excused.

The committee appointed at the last session to arrange for the

organization of a Sunday School Convention submitted the following

REPORT:

Your Committee appointed at your last session to arrange for the organization of a Sabbath School Convention in the bounds of this Conference, would report having failed to bring about an organization during the past year. We would suggest that Conference call a meeting on Friday before the first Sabbath in May for that purpose; the meeting to be composed of all ministers, superintendents, and one delegate for every twenty-five pupils. We would recommend Soliloquy Church, Shenandoah county, Va., as the place of meeting.

Respectfully submitted. D. F. LINEWEAVER.

After some remarks, the report was adopted.

The time having arrived, on motion, Conference took a recess to hear the Annual Address.

Rev. C. J. Rolston, who had been appointed to perform that duty, delivered an address upon the subject, "The Gospel of Christ in Opposition to the Gospel of the Sects."

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

Conference convened. Prayer by the President.

Rev. G. W. Woods offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of Conference are due, and are hereby tendered, to Rev. C. J. Rolston, for the earnest and instructive address delivered by him this day before Conference.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

Education—G. W. Woods, C. J. Rolston.

Sunday Schools—D. F. Lineweaver, David Rolston, Sr., Geo. Stilwell and C. A. Henton.

Executive Committee—Revs. C. J. Rolston, G. W. Woods, and Brother D. F. Lineweaver.

Temperance—Revs. J. C. Williams, C. J. Rolston, and Brother C. A. Henton.

Home Missions—Rev. J. C. Williams, Ephraim Woods and C. A. Henton.

On motion of Rev. J. C. Williams, Conference proceeded to the selection of a place for the next meeting, whereupon Bethlehem was chosen.

On motion of C. A. Henton, the selection of a person to deliver the Annual Address was referred to the Executive Committee.

The Conference then, by a vote, decided to have the proceedings of this session published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL, delegates from each Church becoming individually responsible for the payment of the cost.

The Committee on Periodicals submitted the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Periodicals beg leave to report:

We are glad to say that our Church organ, the *Christian Sun*, is being more and more appreciated. There are a larger number of copies taken this year than there were last year. We hope the number will continue to increase. We would recommend the *Little Christian* to all of our Sabbath Schools.

Respectfully submitted. C. J. ROLSTON, Chairman.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Woods, the time of meeting was changed from Thursday before the second Sunday in October to Thursday before the first Sunday in September.

The Committee on Church Records then reported, and after some remarks the report was adopted.

REPORT.

The Committee on Church Records have examined the books of the Churches at Antioch, Linville, and Dayton, and find them kept strictly in accordance with the recommendation of Conference. We would earnestly desire that the books of all the churches be sent to next Conference. Let every Church send up its book.

C. A. HENTON, Chairman.

The Committee on Memoirs then made the following

REPORT:

Your Committee on Memoirs beg leave to submit the following:

The Committee on Memoirs appointed to prepare resolutions on the death of our beloved Brother N. B. KIRACOFE, who departed this life during the last Conference year, and in order that our high esteem and love for the departed be given, we would offer the following:

RESOLVED, That in the death of Rev. N. B. KIRACOFE, whose meekness, piety and efficiency distinguished him as one of the highest examples of Christian virtue and usefulness, the Church has lost one of its earnest workers.

RESOLVED, That we deeply sympathize with the bereaved widow and sorrowing children and relatives in their sad affliction.

C. J. ROLSTON,
GEO. W. WOODS,
J. C. WILLIAMS,
} Committee.

On motion of Brother C. A. Henton, Rev. C. J. Rolston was chosen as Fraternal Messenger to the Eastern Virginia Conference.

The Committee on Religious Exercises then reported Rev. C. J. Rolston to preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M. and 2 and 7 o'clock P. M.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, Conference adjourned to meet at 6 o'clock P. M.

Religious exercises by Rev. G. W. Woods.

[NIGHT SESSION.]

Six O'clock P. M.

Conference convened, the President in the chair.

Prayer by Brother D. F. Lineweaver.

Rev. G. W. Woods offered the following preamble and resolution, which were adopted:

WHEREAS, The business of this body has been detained by the Standing Committees failing to have their reports in readiness;

RESOLVED, That they be required to have their reports prepared by the opening of Conference.

The Committee on Education then reported.

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education feel sensibly the importance of education among our people; we, therefore, urge upon parents the importance of educating their sons and daughters, and those committed to their care. Having no High School in the bounds of our Conference where they can secure this end, and to those who are seeking to educate their children we would recommend the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, under the supervision of Professors King and Wright.

Respectfully submitted, C. J. ROLSTON, Chairman.

After some discussion, the report was adopted.

The Committee on Home Missions then offered their report, and, after some amendment, it was unanimously adopted.

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions submit the following:

We pledge you that we have given the subject unbiased thought, and have seriously meditated the present state and standing of the several Churches composing the Conference now in session, and, with a knowledge of the past, we would recommend you in that which we believe would be best for us and the prosperity of the Churches.

First. We recommend that the Committee on Home Missions be instructed to procure the services of the Rev. W. T. Walker, of the North Carolina Conference, and report to the several Churches as early as possible.

Secondly. We recommend that the several Churches submit to the arrangement of the Committee on Home Missions.

Respectfully submitted. JOHN C. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

Rev. G. W. Woods, offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of Conference are due, and are hereby tendered, to the brethren and friends around Antioch Church for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have treated this body during its present session.

The President then gave a few remarks, urging the brethren to earnestly work for the Master the coming year.

On motion of Brother C. A. Henton, Conference adjourned to meet at Bethlehem, Rockingham county, Virginia, on Thursday before the first Sunday in September, 1875.

Religious exercises by the President.

JESSE BURKHOLDER, *President.*

C. J. ROLSTON, *Secretary,*
C. A. HENTON, *Assistant Secretary.*

N. B.—The congregations during the session were larger than they have ever been. There was a great interest manifested in the preaching of the Word. May God give strength to the cause, and to Him may all honor be given.

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF

THE NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

Hanks' Chapel, Chatham Co., N. C., Nov. 13, 14, 16 and 17, 1874.

HANKS' CHAPEL, CHATHAM COUNTY, N. C.,
November 13th, 1874.

The NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled at this place to-day, and was called to order by the former President, Rev. J. W. Wellons.

The Standing Secretary called the roll, and the following ministers and lay-delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS.—S. Apple, A. Apple, A. G. Anderson, J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, W. T. Walker, W. G. Clements, D. A. Long, C. A. Boon, J. N. Farrell, J. W. Hatch, A. Iseley, W. H. Franks, and T. J. Fowler.

LICENTIATES.—S. I. Ellis, J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Pinnix, A. F. Iseley, W. W. Staley.

DELEGATES.—C. S. Holleman, A. Moring, M. Sorrell, Jno. A. Womack, T. H. May, K. D. Holmes, J. H. Fleming, R. N. Johnson, W. S. Petty, W. K. Martin, Sr., W. Young, G. S. Watson, W. A. McCauley, G. R. Maynard, Isaac Easom, John Childs, R. P. Smith, B. B. Jones, R. P. Polyard, J. C. Gunter, G. W. Ellington, J. T. Johnson, T. G. Lindsay, W. N. Pritchard, P. R. Harden, D. W. Michael, Peter Long, Samuel Crocker, Wesley Jenkins, J. H. Horton, Asa Klapp, George R Wright, J. M. Marshall, H. C. Fulton, David Bragg, John Lynch, D. F. Kernodle, Eli Iseley, J. W. Dempsey, E. D. Hines, J. M. Smith, B. R. Eaves, W. A. Cunningham, T. A. S. Boyd, W. D. Mills, E. S. Hudson, W. B. Lassater, Ruffin Holt, Chas. Pennington, W. G. Murchison, S. Edwards, J. W. McCain, J. B. Watson, J. D. Gunter.

A quorum being present, religious services were conducted by Rev. T. J. Fowler.

Brother W. K. Martin was chosen President, and W. W. Staley was chosen Assistant Secretary.

The following Fraternal Messengers were invited to seats in Conference: Rev. Dr. Wellons, Eastern Virginia Conference, and Rev. Wm. Brady, of the Deep River (N. C.) Conference.

Rev. M. L. Hurley was also invited to a seat in Conference.

On motion, the Rules of Conference were read by the Secretary.

Rev. W. C. Kennett, a Fraternal Messenger from the Methodist Protestant Conference, was, on motion of Rev. W. S. Long, invited to a seat in Conference. The President introduced Brother Kennett to the Conference in due form.

Rev. W. G. Clements then delivered the Annual Sermon from the 5th chapter, 47th verse, of Matthew. The discourse was earnest and well prepared.

Rev. D. A. Long then offered the following:

Resolved, That Conference meet each day at 9 o'clock A. M., adjourn at 12 o'clock M.; meet again at 1½ o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

Adopted.

On motion of Rev. J. W. Wellons, Rev. D. A. Long and the delegates to Conference from Hanks' Chapel were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, Conference thanked Rev. W. G. Clements for the Annual Sermon.

On motion of Rev. J. W. Hatch, Conference adjourned.

Religious exercises by Rev. S. Apple.

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[Second Day.]

November 14th, 1874.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President. Religious services by Rev. A. G. Anderson.

Rev. D. A. Long read the following report of the Committee on Temperance:

REPORT.

Your Committee on the subject of Temperance would respectfully recommend two things to the Churches composing this Conference:

1st. To try to keep the Church members as free from intemperate habits of all kinds as possible. No one will deny that an intemperate member always bring grief to his best friends and disgrace to the religion which we profess. Whenever we find our members making, buying, selling, or using as a beverage anything which intoxicates, we should meet the evil with a kind but prompt rebuke, and use all proper means to exclude the same entirely from our midst.

2d. Our duty to mankind at large. The world is looking to the Church for an example in all enterprises of social improvement. Let us set an example which may be safely followed by all.

Respectfully submitted. D. A. LONG, Chairman.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the Report on Temperance was made the special order for 2 o'clock P. M.

Rev. D. A. Long, who had been appointed an agent to solicit contributions for the purpose of purchasing the Graham College buildings, then reported. His report was adopted.

Rev. A. G. Anderson then offered the following:

WHEREAS, The Graham College buildings were offered to this Conference for three thousand dollars ($3,000) at its last annual session, and an agent appointed to solicit donations for the purpose of purchasing said buildings; and

WHEREAS, Since that time the said buildings have been purchased by Rev. D. A. Long, as his own individual property; and

WHEREAS, He has employed an able corps of teachers and is now conducting an unsectarian school which fully meets our wants; and

WHEREAS, He now offers better inducements for the education of our children and the Biblical students connected with this Conference than the financial condition of this Conference will allow; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we endorse the school now in operation, and abandon the idea of purchasing the Graham College buildings, and that the agent be instructed to refund the money to those who have paid him for said purpose.

Adopted.

The Committee on Religious exercises then made the following

REPORT:

Rev. W. C. Kennett, of the Methodist Protestant Church, to preach at this place to-day at 11½ o'clock A. M.; Rev. Dr. Wellons to preach to-morrow at 11 A. M., and Rev. W S. Long at 2 o'clock P. M.; Rev. D. A. Long to preach at Mt. Gilead to-morrow at 11 o'clock, A. M.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the letters from the Churches were called for and read.

Rev. J. W. Wellons then offered the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Home Missions submit a partial report, and recommend the Conference be districted as follows:

Franklinton District, No. 1.—Pope's Chapel, 3 miles; Oak Level, 5; Good Hope, 9; Liberty, 20.

Williamsboro District, No. 2.—Mt. Auburn, 15; Midway, 6; Union, Va., 25.

Milton District, No. 3.—Lebanon, 6; Brandon's Chapel, 7; Pleasant Grove, Va., 15; Mt. Pisgah. 7; Reece's Chapel, 30.

North Alamance District, No. 4.—Union, N. C., King's School House, 4; Mt. Zion, 12; Concord, 10.

Graham District No. 5.—Providence, Company Shops, 3; Carolina Factory, 4.

Shallow Ford District No. 6.—Bethlehem, 3; Shallow Ford, 2; Apple's Chapel, 6; Hines' Chapel, 12.

Bruce's District No. 7.—Mt. Bethel, 6; Liberty School House, 5; Salem Chapel, 20; Rock Hill, 17; Gant's Chapel, 8.

Pittsboro' District, No. 8.—Pleasant Hill (Cha) 25; Antioch, 12; Hanks' Chapel, 3; Bethel, 6.

Morrisville District, No. 9.—Morrisville; O'Kelley's Chapel, 8; Martha's Chapel, 10; Damascus. 20.

Lockville District, No. 10.—Zion, 3; Shallow Well, 9; Moore Union, 6; New Elam, 5.

Holy Spring District, No. 11.—Christian Chapel, 10; Pleasant Grove (Bell's), 10; Wake Chapel, 4; Pleasant Union, 14.

Auburn District, No. 12.—Catawba Springs, 10; Hayes' Chapel, 2; Smyrna, 2; Pleasant Hill (J.), 20.

Respectfully submitted. J. W. WELLONS.

On motion of Rev. A. G. Anderson, the above report was made the special order for 2½ o'clock P. M.

On motion of Rev. J. W. Wellons, 1½ o'clock P. M. was set apart to hear from Fraternal Messengers.

The President then announced that the hour for religious services had arrived.

Immediately after preaching, Conference adjourned for refreshments.

[Afternoon Session.]

1½ O'clock P. M.

President in the chair. Several of the Fraternal Messengers then spoke. The remarks of Brother Kennett were listened to with good attention by those who had an opportunity.

Rev. W. S. Long then offered the following:

Resolved, That we have heard with pleasure the words of fraternal greeting from Rev. W. C. Kennett, of the Methodist Protestant Church, and that we will send a member of this Conference to the approaching session of his Conference, to bear in return our salutations of love to the same.

Adopted.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, Revs. Moore and Pope, of the Baptist Church, were invited to seats as deliberative members of this Conference.

2 P. M.—The Report on Temperance was taken up. After remarks by Revs. J. N. Farrell and J. W. Wellons, the report was adopted.

2½ P. M.—The Report on Districting the Conference was then taken up and discussed by Brothers P. R. Harden, A. Moring, J. M. Smith, Revs. W. S. Long, S. Apple, A. Iseley, W. T. Walker, J. N. Farrell and J. W. Wellons.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, this report was made the order for 9½ o'clock Monday.

Brother S. Mitchell, a delegate, then appeared, and, after giving a satisfactory excuse for tardiness, had his name enrolled.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, Conference adjourned.

Religious services by Rev. A. Iseley.

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[Third Day.]

November 16th, 1874.

Conference met at 9 o'clock, President W. K. Martin in the chair, and was opened with religious exercises by Rev. J. N. Farrell.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the following Committee on Memoirs was appointed by the President: Revs. T. J. Fowler, A. Apple, S. Apple, W. S. Long.

On motion, the following Committee was appointed on Publications: Revs. A. Iseley, J. W. Holt, and Bro. A. Moring.

The following Committee was appointed on Church Records: Rev. J. N. Farrell and Bros. Harden and Boyd.

The following partial Report on Education was read and adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Education beg leave to make the following partial report:

W. W. Staley came before us, recommended by the Church at New Providence for ordination. We have examined him according to our Form of Government, and are satisfied with the proficiency he has made in his studies, and are free to recommend him to the favorable consideration of Conference for ordination.

J. W. Pinnix was recommended by the Church at Concord, also by two members of another congregation, for ordination. But Brother Pinnix decided to defer the matter for another year without an examination, which we hope will be satisfactory to all parties.

Respectfully submitted.

W. S. LONG,
S. APPLE,
A. G. ANDERSON.

On motion of Rev. T. J. Fowler, 2 o'clock P. M. was set apart for the ordination of Brother Staley.

The President appointed Revs. S. Apple, A. Iseley and A. G. Anderson an Ordaining Presbytery. The President of Conference requested Rev. Dr. Wellons to assist in the ordination.

9½ O'clock.—The special order, Report on Districting the Conference, was taken up. Remarks were made by Revs. A. Apple, A. G. Anderson and J. W. Wellons.

The following amendments were offered to the Report on Districting the Conference, by Rev. W. S. Long:

The Committee on Home Missions submit a partial report, and recommend to the Churches—

I. The propriety, in all possible instances, of securing for themselves pastors who may minister to them regularly every Sunday.

II. That in all places where a Church is not able to secure a pastor to preach for it once a week, that it be requested to unite with one or two other Churches in its own vicinity and call a pastor.

III. That we would advise the Churches in all instances to elect pastors for an indefinite period.

IV. That we would recommend the Churches to endeavor to secure parsonages for their ministers in all cases where it is possible.

V. That this body urge the ministers, especially the laymen now present, to bring these recommendations to the careful attention of all the Churches.

The hour having arrived for adjournment, Conference adjourned till 1½ o'clock.

[Afternoon Session.]

President in the chair. The amendments to the Report on Districting the Conference were again taken up.

After remarks by Revs. W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons and J. N. Farrell, the amendments were adopted.

Two o'clock, the time set apart for the ordination of W. W. Staley, having arrived, he was duly ordained.

Rev. W. W. Staley read the following report on Sabbath Schools, which was adopted, after remarks by Revs. D. A. Long, W. S. Long, S. Apple, J. W. Wellons, P. T. Klapp, W. W. Staley, and Brother A. Moring.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We are happy to report a growing interest in the Sabbath School work. About eighteen schools have been in operation during the last Conference year, with about 1,000 teachers and pupils.

We advise that the preachers take special pains to impress correct religious ideas upon the minds of the young; to assist in the schools all they can; and to persuade the parents to engage more zealously in the work.

The *Little Christian*, recently started amongst us, with Rev. J. T. Whitley as editor, we believe to be full of sound matter, and well worthy of our support. The International Series of Bible Lessons which will be introduced into this paper in January, 1875, will add new beauty and value to this already popular visitor.

We recommend that we endeavor to hold Sabbath School Associations during the coming Conference year, inviting the co-operation of Sabbath Schools of all denominations; said Associations to be held at such times and places as the schools themselves may determine. Also, that the Churches elect the Superintendents of their schools in their quarterly meetings.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, Revs. J. W. Wellons D. A. Long, A. Apple and Brother W. K. Martin were appointed Fraternal Messengers to the next Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church.

Fraternal Messengers to the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference—Revs. A. G. Anderson and W. S. Long.

To Deep River Christian Conference—Revs. A. Iseley, J. N. Farrell and M. L. Hurley.

To Valley Virginia Christian Conference—Revs. S. Apple and W. W. Staley.

To attend the Colored Conference—Revs. W. G. Clements, J. W. Wellons and H. B. Hayes.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, Rev. A. Iseley was selected to deliver the next annual sermon before this Conference.

The following, by Rev. W. S. Long, was adopted:

RESOLVED, That this Conference meet at Pope's Chapel, in its next annual session, on Friday before the third Sabbath in November, 1875.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, Rev. M. L. Hurley was received from the Deep River Conference as an Elder in this. He came bearing a recommendation of good standing.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Religious services by Rev. Dr. Wellons.

[Fourth Day.]

November 17th, 1874.

Conference was called to order by the President at 9 o'clock, and religious services were conducted by Rev. A. Apple.

The minutes of yesterday were read, and, after a slight correction, adopted.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, Rev. W. S. Long was appointed as an alternate to deliver the next annual sermon.

The following report on Church Records was read, and, after remarks by Revs. S. Apple, A. Iseley, J. N. Farrell, Dr. W. B. Wellons, and Brother A. Moring, was adopted:

REPORT.

We, the Committee to Examine the Church Records, have had the books of the following Churches presented to us: Zion, Apple's. Bethlehem, New Elam, New Providence, Hanks' Chapel, Christian Chapel, Brandon's Chapel, Va., Shallow Well, Damascus, Pleasant Hill (C.), and Union, Alamance. We find them all in good form and order.

Submitted. J. N. FARRELL, Chairman.

A letter of excuse was read for absence from Rev. P. W. Allen.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the Elders who have failed to report themselves to this Conference in person or by letter, be referred to the Executive Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMOIRS.

We, your Committee on Memoirs, beg leave to report that, in the Providence of God, since our last meeting our brother Thomas Truitt, has been taken by death from our midst. And in view of this dispensation of Divine Providence which has been visited upon us, we propose the following as the expression of this body:

1. Resolved, That we have heard, with feelings of profound sorrow, the death of Brother Thomas Truitt, at his residence near Company Shops, N. C.

2. Resolved, That we will cherish the memory of our departed brother, believing that in the meek and quiet tenor of his life he gave evidence of his being a sincere follower of Christ, and that he now rests from his labors.

3 Resolved, That we tender to the family of the deceased expressions of our sympathy and sincere condolence.

(Signed) T. J. FOWLER, Chairman.

After eulogistic remarks by Revs. T. J. Fowler, D. A. Long, Dr. W. B. Wellons, A. Iseley, W. S. Long, and S. I. Ellis, the above was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, preaching was dispensed with, and Rev. Dr. Wellons and Rev. S. Apple were requested to give an account of their visit to the Convention at Cincinnati, and the deliberations of the brethren there in favor of organic union.

The remarks of Revs. Dr. Wellons and S. Apple were listened to with marked attention, and we believe the full and prospective account which they gave of the Convention at Cincinnati made a special impression in the cause of Christian Union.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, the time of morning session was extended ten minutes.

Rev. W. S. Long offered the following, which was adopted:

RESOLVED, That we have heard with feelings of profound gratitude the success attending the labors of the lovers of Christian Union, and commend the basis of union put forth by the convention of union lovers which met in Cincinnati October 21, 1874, to the careful consideration of the ministers and churches of this body.

Recess till 1½ o'clock.

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

The President in the chair.

The Committee on Periodicals then submitted the following

REPORT:

Your Committee on Periodicals ask leave to report that we fully appreciate the power of the press, and are glad to see that our people are becoming more sensible of the efficiency of this medium through which to reach the public mind and to educate the masses.

We cordially commend to all lovers of Christian Union and liberal, warm-hearted christianity, the *Christian Sun*, edited and published by Rev. Dr. Wellons, at Suffolk, Va., as a faithful advocate and exponent of such principles.

We are glad to say that since our last Conference a want which we have long felt has been supplied in the publication of the *Little Christian*, edited by Rev. J. T. Whitley, and published at the *Christian Sun* office, as a paper that furnishes good matter for the young people of our land, and a welcome visitor to our Sunday Schools.

We heartily endorse the *Christian Sun* as the organ of this Conference, and recommend it as a good family newspaper, filled with interesting articles, original and selected, on the various matters pertaining to religion, morality, temperance, and general news.

We urge upon all the ministers of this Conference, and every lover of truth within our bounds to exert themselves in securing a wider circulation for the *Sun* and the *Little Christian*, and pledge our efforts to secure this end.

RESOLVED, That an agent be appointed by the various churches for the *Sun* and *Little Christian*.

A. ISELEY,
J. W. HOLT,
A. MORING,
} Committee.

After remarks by Revs. S. Apple, A. Iseley, J. W. Hatch, S. I. Ellis, and W. B. Wellons, the report was adopted.

On motion, the following brethren were granted a leave of absence: W. J. Watkins, John Giles, Samuel Crocker, J. M. Marshall, Henry Fulton, and W. W. Staley.

The Committee on Education then reported the following:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education ask leave to submit the following partial report: We have received into the Biblical Class the following interesting and promising young men, viz., H. C. Fulton, I. H. Long, E. T. Iseley, and D. W. Michael. We are of opinion that these young men will be of great usefulness to the Church, and recommend them to the fostering care and prayers of the brethren. All, except Brother Fulton, are in school, and are in advanced classes. Brother Fulton is well

posted in the Scriptures, but is not up to our requirements in the literary branches. We would recommend that he operate another year on the license he now has from his church.

Your Committee desire to call the attention of our people to the importance of educating their children, and trust that they will encourage all school enterprise open to them, and endeavor to build up schools at other destitute places.

We recommend the Graham High School to the favorable consideration of this body. The liberal offers made by its present principal commend it to us all

W. S. LONG,
S. APPLE.

After a few remarks, the report was adopted.

The Executive Committee then reported.

REPORT.

Your Executive Committee submit the following as their report:

Brother T. P. Hampton presented to us his credentials as an ordained minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is now a member of the church at Salem Chapel, and is, we believe, a very good man. We, therefore, during the month of August, 1874, granted him license to officiate as an Elder of this Conference until the meeting of this body, with instructions to report himself here and obtain, if it was your pleasure, license from this Conference.

A. ISELEY,
W. S. LONG,
A. G. ANDERSON, } Committee.

Adopted.

On motion of Rev. J. W. Wellons, a collection was then taken up for the purpose of paying Rev. S. Apple's expenses to the Cincinnati Convention.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, the Conference decided to publish the proceedings of the present session in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL, edited and published by Rev. Dr. Wellons.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees:

Executive Committee—A. Iseley, A. G. Anderson and D. A. Long.

Home Missions—J. W. Wellons, W. G. Clements and J. W. Hatch.

Sabbath Schools—D. A. Long, W. W. Staley and P. R. Harden.

Temperance—J. N. Farrell, C. A. Boon and D. T. Deanes.

The following, offered by Rev. W. W. Staley, was adopted:

RESOLVED, 1. That we hereby tender our thanks to the citizens of this community, who have entertained us so well during the sitting of this Conference.

RESOLVED, 2. That we take pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy extended to us by the pastors and congregations which have received us into their pulpits during the session of this body.

RESOLVED, 3. That we appreciate the kindness extended to us by the railroads in passing delegates and visitors for half-fare.

The Committee on Home Missions then made the following

REPORT:

Acting under the advice of our General Convention, your Committee have confined their labors to those Churches likely to be left destitute of preaching, and are happy to say that arrangements have either been fully perfected, or are in course of perfection, which will supply all our Churches with preaching. We advise all our pastors to look out around them for new points to plant Churches; and should any minister be unemployed or only partially employed, we advise that new places be earnestly sought after. Many new places might be occupied, which would soon become equal to older Churches in the support of a pastor.

Respectfully submitted. J. W. WELLONS, Chairman.

The report called forth earnest remarks from the President of the General Convention, urging the preachers to go out and open new fields of labor.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, the Conference appointed Rev. J. W. Wellons to go to Newbern, N. C., as soon as possible, and sell the Christian Church there for cash, and pay the amount of money which he may receive to Rev. W. S. Long, for the purpose of paying him (Rev. W. S. L.) for his services as a minister in Western North Carolina during the coming Conference year.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, Conference adjourned, to meet at Pope's Chapel, Granville county, N. C., on Friday before the third Sabbath in November, 1875, 11 o'clock A. M.

Religious services by Rev. D. A. Long.

W. K. MARTIN, *President.*

D. A. LONG, *Secretary.*

W. W. STALEY, *Assistant Secretary.*

MINISTERS' REPORTS.

S. Apple—Had the pastoral charge of two Churches. Preached about fifty times.

A. Apple—Had the pastoral charge of two Churches, and preached at other points.

A. G. Anderson—Had the pastoral charge of the Churches at Concord, Mt. Zion, and King's School House.

J. W. Wellons—Had the pastoral charge of Union, Va., Good Hope, Oak Level, and Pope's Chapel, and completed my book of Family Prayers.

W. S. Long—Associate Principal of Graham High School, and pastor of the Church at New Providence.

W. G. Clements—Had the pastoral charge of Hayes' Chapel, New Elam, and Bethel.

D. A. Long—Had pastoral charge of Damascus, Mt. Auburn, Lebanon, Brandon's Chapel, and Hanks' Chapel. Also, Associate Principal Graham High School.

C. A. Boon—Had charge of Shallow Well, Moore Union, and Christian Chapel. Preached 83 sermons.

J. N. Farrell—Had the pastoral charge of the following Churches: Catawba Spring, Wake Chapel, and Zion.

J. W. Hatch—Had the pastoral charge of Antioch, and preached once a month at Hanks' Chapel.

D. T. Deanes—Had charge of the Church at Liberty School House.

A. Iseley—Had the pastoral charge of Shallow Ford, Union (Alamance), Bethlehem, and Pleasant Hill (Chatham.)

W. H. Franks—Preached to three or four congregations.

T. J. Fowler—Had the pastoral charge of the Church at Morrisville.

LICENTIATES:

S. I. Ellis—I have preached occasionally, and kept up my Biblical studies the best I could.

J. W. Holt—Attended school six months; taught five. Preached several times.

S. T. Klapp—Preached forty-six times, and kept up my Biblical recitations.

A. F. Iseley—Preached occasionally. Labored in the Sabbath School work, and kept up my studies the best I could.

W. W. Staley—Preached thirty-seven times. Teacher in Graham High School.

M. L. Winston—Preached at Liberty Hill, and assisted other brethren.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Total No. of Present Membership.	Paid Pastor.	Other Purposes.	Total Am't Paid.	Value of Church Property.	No. Sunday Schools	No. Officers, Teachers & Pupils.	No. Volumes in Library.
O'Kelly's Chapel.	A. Apple	6	1	..	5		120	$150			$...	1	73	
Catawba Springs.	J. N. Farrell ...	10	1	..	..		100	75						
Pope's Chapel....	J. W. Wellons..	..	..	..	..		...							
Mt. Auburn	D. A. Long.....	12	..	1	1		80	200			1000			
Hanks' Chapel...	D. A. Long.. ...	10	..	..	5	2	159	200	$10	$210	500	1	35	65
Oak Level.....	J. W. Wellons..	16	1	2	..		87				250			
Union, Va.....	J. W. Wellons..	27	2	3	..		175							
Union, N. C.....	A. Iseley.....	28	1	2	..		253	67	34.23	101.23	1000			
Pleasant Hill (J.)	W. H. Franks .	6	..	..	..	2	25							
Wake Chapel....	J. N. Farrell ...	22	..	..	1		161						54	
Christian Chapel.	C. A. Boon. . .	13	..	..	4	2	157	15		15	800	1	33	50
Shallow Well ..	C. A. Boon. ...	11	..				110	51		51	400			
Moore Union.....	C. A. Boon.....	5	3	1			28	17	12	29	125	1	26	20
Zion	J. N. Farrell....	8	..	..		1	120	50	4	54	500	1	41	12
Antioch	J. W. Hatch....	..	..	..			...							
Damascus.....	D. A. Long	3	1	1		3	70	100	. ..	100	500	1	89	50
New Providence.	W. S. Long.....	39	2	..	1		332	179	212	391	3000	1	122	100
Shallow Ford....	Alfred Iseley...	..	..	..			..							
Hayes' Chapel...	W. G. Clements	9	1	1			55	60	144	204	400	1	45	100
Smyrna.....		..	..	..				...						
Midway.....		..	..	..										
Pleasant Union..		..	..	..										
Martha's Chapel.	A. Apple	..	..				..	.		. ..				
Apple's Chapel...	W. T. Walker..	22	..	..			130	42	...	42	300		...	
Salem Chapel....	W. T. Walker..	5	..	..			129	98	...	98	600		...	
Good Hope.....	J. W. Wellons..	2	..	..			57	65	1	66			...	...
Mt. Zion	A. G. Anderson	..	..	..	3	2	25	26			600			
Bethlehem.....	A. Iseley.....	14	..	..	3		144	53	15	68	300	1	15	52
Bethel	W. G. Clements	1	..	..		1	30	14		14	400			
Mt. Bethel	D. T. Deanes....	..	..	..										
Hines' Chapel....	W. T. Walker..	8	..	..		1	67	80	23	103	500			
Lebanon	D. A. Long	3	..	..	2		41	130	4	134	500	1	61	100
Concord	A. G. Anderson	..	..	..										
Liberty.		..	..	..										
Pleas't Grove, Va.	S. Apple.....	20	..	..	2		83	100	30	130	2000	1	80	80
Reece's Chapel..		..	..	..										
Mt. Pisgah.....	S. Apple.....	..	..	..			21	...						
New Elam.....	W. G. Clements	1	.	..		2	84	37	110	147	600	1	48	
Brown's Chapel..	D. T. Deanes....	..	..	..						...				
LibertySch'l H'se	D. T. Deanes....	..	..	..			17							
Rock Hill.....		..	..	..										
Morrisville... ...	T. J. Fowler....	..	..	..			12	30	48	78	500	1	49	48
Pleasant Hill (C)	A. Iseley.....	12	..	..		1	74	40	3	43				..
Brandon's Chapel	D. A. Long	4	..	..	1		14	40		40	60	1	63	65

MINUTES

OF THE

DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

PLEASANT GROVE, RANDOLPH CO., N. C., OCTOBER 8, 9, AND 10, 1874.

PLEASANT GROVE, RANDOLPH COUNTY, N. C.,
October 8th, 1874.

The DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled here to-day, at the appointed hour, in its tenth annual session.

The body was called to order by the former President, Rev. John S. Lawrence.

Religious exercises by the President.

By order of the President, the roll of Elders and Licentiates was called, which resulted as follows:

ELDERS.—*Present:* A. S. Nelson, John S. Lawrence, W. R. Brown, W. M. Craven, M. L. Hurley and W. W. Lawrence. *Absent:* Joseph Albright and J. B. Ausley.

LICENTIATES.—*Present:* H. A. Albright, Wm G. Brady and Peter P. Humble. *Absent:* William Dickens, D. B. McLeod and J. A. Scott.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.—*Pleasant Grove*—Lewis Brady, Silas L. Moffitt, John Brady, Manly Hicks, James Brady, Tyson Johnson. *Parks' Cross Roads*—William Stout, Henry C. Vestal, J. Rankin Parks. *Shiloh*—H. T. Moffitt, John Gorley, John E. Albright, Thomas Brady. *Pleasant Ridge*—Joseph J. Allen, George W. Stout, Monroe Craven. *Shady Grove*—Elijah C. Martin. *Oldham Grove*—Not represented. *Brown's Chapel*—William Brewer, N. Nalls. *Salem*—Not represented. *Cool Springs*—Not represented. *New Providence*—M. A. Monroe, C. D. Williamson. *New Centre*—Westward Cox, Lockey Owen. *Union Grove*—Adam Brown, Daniel Brown, Samuel H. Way.

A quorum being present, the President announced that the first business in order is to elect officers for the present session.

On motion of Rev. M. L. Hurley, Conference elected by acclamation Rev. A. S. Nelson, President, Brother H. T. Moffitt, Vice President, and Brother Henry C. Vestal, Assistant Secretary.

On motion, Conference suspended business to hear the Annual Address, delivered by Rev. M. L. Hurley, from Matthew xvi., 18. His discourse was plain, practical, and instructive, and delivered with much earnestness.

On motion, Revs. A. S. Nelson and J. S. Lawrence were added to the Committee on Education.

On motion, Rev. W. M. Craven was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Committee on Sabbath Schools, and Brother H. A. Albright to fill one in the Committee on Temperance.

On motion of Rev. M. L. Hurley, Conference shall meet during this session at 9 o'clock A. M., and adjourn at 11½ o'clock for refreshments; reassemble at 1 o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

The Chair appointed Brethren John E. Albright, Daniel Brown and James Brady a Committee on Religious Exercises during Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M.

Singing, and prayer by Rev. W. W. Lawrence.

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[Second Day.]

October 9th, 1874.

Conference convened according to adjournment. The President presiding.

Religious exercises by Brother P. P. Humble.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Brother M. A. Monroe, delegate from New Providence, arrived and took his seat.

On motion, the hour of 10 o'clock to-morrow morning was set apart for the reading of the church letters.

On motion, the following Rules of Order were read and adopted by a unanimous vote:

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The President shall take the chair at the appointed hour and call the Conference to order.

2. Each morning session shall be opened with religious exercises, and each afternoon session shall be closed in a similar way, under the direction of the President.

3. At the opening of each daily session the Secretary shall read the proceedings of the previous day, and the Conference correct and prepare them for publication.

4. It shall be the duty of the President, or the privilege of a member, to call any brother to order who may indulge in personal reflection or irrelevant debate.

5. The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to Conference, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once.

6. The President shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise ordered by Conference.

7. The President may participate in debate by calling a member to the chair.

8. The President shall vote on no question, except in case of a tie, or when the vote is taken by ballot.

9. The President shall rise from the chair in putting all questions to the house.

10. No member shall speak on any question without rising from his seat and respectfully addressing the Chair.

11. No member shall be permitted to speak more than twice on any question, except by permission of the President.

12. No member shall pass between the President and a member while speaking, nor interrupt him, except by permission to explain.

13. Members shall not converse together so as to disturb Conference.

14 Members shall retain their seats, unless rising to speak, or for the purpose of retiring; and no member shall retire without leave of the President.

15. Members are required to vote in all cases, unless excused by Conference.

16. Any member who shall be absent at the beginning of Conference, shall, on his arrival, render his excuse for delay; and no member shall leave Conference before its final adjournment without permission of the body.

17. No motion shall be entertained or debated until the same shall be seconded.

18. All motions and resolutions made and seconded shall be open for debate, except the motion to adjourn and to lay on the table, which questions shall be decided without debate.

19. There may be an amendment to an amendment, but no more; and all amendments must be disposed of before the vote is taken on the main question.

20. The decision of all questions shall be by "aye" or "nay."

21. All motions, resolutions and amendments shall be reduced to writing, if required by the President or any member.

22. All reports of committees shall be made in writing.

23. No motion to reconsider shall be in order, except by a member who voted with the majority.

24. These rules shall be read at the opening of each annual session of Conference, and at such other times as Conference may direct.

25. These Rules of Order shall not be suspended or altered, except by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

A motion to raise a Committee on Home Missions, instead of the usual Committee on Supplies, to consist of one Elder and two laymen, was carried. Rev. John S. Lawrence, Brothers H. T. Moffit and H. C. Vestal were appointed.

The Chair appointed Brethren S. H. Way, E. C. Martin and Daniel Brown as a Committee on Statistics.

A motion was made to appoint a suitable person to deliver the next Annual Address before this body. Brother H. A. Albright was selected to perform that duty.

On motion, Conference appointed Revs. John S. Lawrence and William G. Brady and Brother Oliver Vestal as Fraternal Messengers from this body to the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference in its next annual session.

Brother William Dickens appeared and took his seat. His excuse for tardiness was accepted.

On motion, Conference adjourned to reassemble at 1 o'clock P. M.

[Afternoon Session.]

1 O'clock P. M.

Conference convened. The President presiding.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted their report.

The report was received, and after an animated discussion by Revs. J. S. Lawrence, M. L. Hurley, W. W. Lawrence, and others, it was unanimously adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee, to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools, would respectfully report:

This subject is not new; the experiment is not now to be made to test the value of the Sabbath School. Thousands of children who have been instructed in these schools in the rudiments of education, and have received many lessons of morality and piety, proclaim the good and worth of the Sabbath School. Many who are now in the prime of life, or in the decline of age, look back with feelings of pleasure upon the happy hours spent in the Sabbath School.

In noticing the great advantages of schools of this character, we would, in the first place, state that they are free schools. There is no tuition charged here. The poor and the indigent, who are not able to pay for an education, may here learn to spell and read; to read the blessed word of God—the Book of books. Here they may learn something of Jesus—something of the great plan of salvation, the richest and most valuable knowledge which the finite mind can conceive.

In the second place, the course of culture is spiritual. Impressions are here made which will have their effects for good; time itself cannot efface them. The mind of the youth is made to meditate upon the teachings of the Bible. The love of Jesus for poor sinners is vividly portrayed to them; their young and tender hearts are thus opened for the reception of the Word of God to the salvation of their souls.

In the third place, it secures the proper observance of the Holy Sabbath. It prevents many sinful pleasures and sports which would, otherwise, no doubt, be indulged in by many. A breach of this day incurs as much condemnation as the violation of any other commandment. How well instructed and how cautious ought the people of God to be in regard to it. It is the most precious time the christian has—a day of devout and thankful thought; a day to be remembered—to be kept holy, typical of that rest which remaineth to the people of God in Heaven.

We have encouraging news from the different portions of our Conference. Our Churches have generally sustained this great enterprise, and kept up active schools through the year. Our hearts swell with emotion when we think of the great good that is here accomplished for the Church of Christ.

The various denominations appear to be united, hand in hand, in this good work. The proper training of the young is of paramount importance. Upon this the future success and prosperity of the Church very materially depend. How important, then, is the point which we have now attained in the institution of the Sabbath School! Let us not slacken our efforts in this direction; but may the good which has attended this glorious cause stimulate us to further and more earnest effort and action. There is yet much before us to be done. The field is still ripening for the harvest. The call for labor is still extended unto the Church. Let the Church not be unmindful to the call in this direction.

We would, therefore, recommend that this Conference appoint a suitable number of persons to act as Sabbath School missionaries within our bounds, whose duty shall be to encourage and establish Sabbath Schools at all practical points, and report the result of their labors to Conference at its next annual session.

Respectfully submitted. H. A. ALBRIGHT, Chairman Committee.

In accordance with the above report, the President announced the brethren named below as Sabbath School Missionaries: C. H. Welch, H. C. Vestal, Monroe Craven, H. A. Albright, Ira Freeman, Thomas Riddle, Joseph Craven, B. W. Phillips, Isham Cagle, C. D. Williamson, Wesward Cox and Adam Brown.

The Committee on Temperance presented the following report, which was, after considerable discussion by Rev. M. L. Hurley and others, received and adopted:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Temperance, desire to report: The all important subject that we were appointed to consider is one that should claim the attention of every professing christian. The alarming progress of vice and immorality, occasioned by intemperance, the many inroads it is making into the Church, are causing Zion to languish, and the cause in which we are engaged in building up, to tremble, totter, and give way. And your committee believe that intemperance, with all its attendant evils, is doing more to pull down the Church of Christ than all other evils combined. And we, as a part of Christ's Church, taking no other name than that of Christian, and the word of God to be our counsel, would not disgrace our name, or that Holy Word, by engaging in the manufacture, traffic, or use of ardent spirits as a beverage; for the Holy Scriptures declare in the most positive terms that "no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." Therefore, as a denomination, as a Church, or as followers of Christ, let us adhere closely to our profession, and to the man of our counsel. We would, therefore, recommend that every minister of the Gospel and every deacon of the Churches aid, as far as in them lies, in carrying into effect the teachings of the Word of God upon this subject, that christianity may flourish in our common brotherhood, and that the direful evils of intemperance may be forever driven outside of the pales of the Church.

Respectfully submitted.

S. H. WAY,
H. A. ALBRIGHT,
W. W. LAWRENCE,
} Committee.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock A. M. to-morrow. Religious services by Rev. M. L. Hurley.

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[THIRD DAY.]

October 10th, 1874.

Conference assembled according to adjournment. The President presiding.

Religious services by Rev. W. W. Lawrence.

Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion, Brother William Dickens, who petitioned for a letter of withdrawal from this Conference, was granted by a unanimous vote, and the Secretary ordered to write said letter.

Brother Nicholas Nalls, delegate from Brown's Chapel, appeared and took his seat.

The hour of 10 having arrived, according to a previous motion, the letters of the various Churches were called for and read.

Rev. John N. Farrell, of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, appeared. He was invited to a seat in this body. Brother Farrell accepted the invitation, and took his seat after a few appropriate remarks.

On motion, Conference will now consider the propriety of selecting the time and place for holding the next annual session of this body. Brown's Chapel, Shady Grove, Shiloh and Parks' Cross Roads were put in nomination.

When the vote was taken, Shiloh had a majority; and the time of meeting is on Thursday, 12 o'clock M., before the second Sunday in October, 1875.

On motion, the time here specified shall be the permanent time for the meeting of this Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned at 11 o'clock A. M., for preaching by Rev. J. N. Farrell, from Rom. x, 14. Brother Farrell preached with his usual zeal to a very attentive congregation.

[Afternoon Session.]

1 O'clock.

Conference met. The President in the chair.

In accordance with a motion made last session, the ministers made a report of their labors for the Conference year just closed.

Revs. W. R. Brown, John S. Lawrence and M. L. Hurley made a written report of their labors.

MINISTERS' REPORTS.

W. R. Brown—Preached at Pleasant Ridge regularly; at Parks' Cross Roads half of the time; at Shiloh and Union Grove part of the time; aided in holding five protracted meetings; preached in all 60 sermons; received into Church fellowship 36; married 5 couples.

John S. Lawrence—Preached at Shady Grove, Brown's Chapel, New Providence, New Centre, Cool Springs, and at other points. Owing to bad health in the Spring he gave over his field of labor to Rev. M. L. Hurley, but so far regained his health as to be able to aid in several protracted meetings in the Fall.

M. L. Hurley—After the opening of the Spring, preached regularly at Parks' Cross Roads, Cool Springs, New Centre, New Providence, Shady Grove and Brown's Chapel; held a protracted meeting at each of the Churches; many were converted and received into the fellowship of the Church.

Revs. W. W. Lawrence and W. M. Craven, Brothers William G. Brady, H. A. Albright and P. P. Humble made a verbal report of their labors. They reported that they had preached regularly at different points, and spent much time in the Sabbath School work.

The Committee on Education made the following report, which was, on motion, received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education feel sensibly the importance of education among our people. We would, therefore, recommend Graham High School, conducted by Brothers Long, as a suitable place for the education of our children, and in every way meeting the wants of the Church.

We have examined Brother William G. Brady. He makes but little pretensions to literary attainments; but owing to his charges, and the recommendation of his Church, and knowing his deep piety, we recommend him to your body for ordination.

We would recommend Brother H. A. Albright as a suitable person for ordination. Respectfully submitted.

W. R. BROWN, Chairman Committee.

Revs. A. S. Nelson, J. N. Farrell and J. S. Lawrence were appointed a Presbytery of Ordination, to meet to-morrow morning at 9½ o'clock, for the purpose of ordaining the brethren recommended.

The Committee on Home Missions submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Home Missions beg leave to report as follows:
Parks' Cross Roads—John S. Lawrence.
Pleasant Ridge—Peter P. Humble.
Union Ridge—Peter P. Humble.
Shiloh and New Providence—W. R. Brown.
Brown's Chapel—W. M. Craven and W. R. Brown.
Shady Grove—J. S. Lawrence.
Cool Springs—W. W. Lawrence and S. H. Way.
New Centre—W. W. Lawrence.
Pleasant Grove—W. G. Brady.
Oldham's Grove—W. G. Brady.
H. A. Albright to assist at Shiloh and New Centre.
A. S. Nelson to assist W. R. Brown at New Providence.
Piney Grove to be supplied by J. S. Lawrence and H. A. Albright.

Respectfully submitted.

J. S. LAWRENCE,
H. T. MOFFITT,
H. C. VESTAL,
} Committee.

Rev. M. L. Hurley applied for and received a letter of dismission from this Conference and commendation to any Christian Conference to which he may apply for membership.

On motion, the thanks of Conference are tendered to the officers for the faithful performance of their duties, and also to the brethren and friends at Pleasant Grove for the very kind manner in which they have entertained the members of this body.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at early candlelight. Prayer by Rev. J. S. Lawrence.

[Night Session.]

Conference met according to adjournment. The President in the chair. Religious services by Rev. W. W. Lawrence.

Minutes of to-day read and approved.

The Chair appointed the Executive Committee as follows: Revs. W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, Brothers H. A. Albright, H. T. Moffit and H. C. Vestal.

Conference passed a resolution that each minister shall take up a collection at his first meeting to aid in the erection of a monument to the memory of our much beloved and deceased brother, Rev. John R. Holt.

The President appointed the following Standing Committees:

On Sabbath Schools—H. A. Albright, W. W. Lawrence and Joseph J. Allen.

On Temperance—W. W. Lawrence, E. C. Martin and S. H. Way.

On Home Missions—J. S. Lawrence, H. T. Moffit and John E. Albright.

On Education—W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, and H. T. Moffit.

On motion of Rev. M. L. Hurley, Rev. John N. Farrell was called on to deliver a lecture on the subject of Sabbath Schools and Temperance.

Brother Farrell's address was delivered in a very pointed manner, and listened to with marked attention. The best of order prevailed during the delivery, although the audience was large. Brother Farrell is a plain speaker, possessed of considerable humorous, reasoning powers.

The Committee on Statistics made the following

REPORT.

CHURCHES.	Received.	Removed.	Withdrawn.	Expelled.	Died.	Total No. Communicants.
Pleasant Grove	28	2	...	2	1	181
Shiloh	10	...	...	5	...	112
Pleasant Ridge	14	...	1	...	1	106
Parks' Cross Roads	12	...	1	1	...	68
Union Grove	1	9	...	...	1	63
Shady Grove	...	...	...	...	...	55
New Providence	2	1	...	...	...	47
Oldham's Grove	...	...	...	...	...	17
Brown's Chapel	...	...	...	...	...	31
Salem	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cool Springs	...	...	...	...	...	18
New Centre	28	...	...	...	...	44
Totals	95	12	2	8	3	750

S. H. WAY, Chairman Committee.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet with the Church at Shiloh, Randolph county, on Thursday, 12 o'clock M., before the second Sunday in October, 1875.

The President read that old familiar hymn, "Am I a soldier of the cross?" after which he delivered a feeling address, implored a parting blessing on the Conference, and pronounced the benediction.

A. S. NELSON, *President.*

H. T. MOFFITT, *Vice President.*

H. A. ALBRIGHT, *Secretary.*

H. C. VESTAL, *Assistant Secretary.*

MINUTES

OF THE

Georgia and Alabama Christian Conference,

HELD AT

LIBERTY CHURCH, RANDOLPH CO., ALA., OCTOBER 3, 4, AND 5, 1874.

LIBERTY, RANDOLPH COUNTY, ALA.,
October 3d, 1874.

The GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by Rev. James D. Elder, President of the last session.

On motion, Rev. James D. Elder was re-elected President, Jas. L. Neese, Secretary, and Wm. Collier, Assistant Secretary.

The roll of ministers was called, with the following result:

ELDERS.—*Present:* J. D. Elder, M. J. Sorrell, C. W. Greggs, L. E. Cofield, G. M. Hurst. *Absent:* Jubilee Smith, J. M. Wharton, W. R. Ledger.

LICENTIATES.—*Present:* Jas. L. Neese, John Burrow. *Absent:* W. J. Manning.

The following Churches were represented by letter and delegates: *Liberty*—Wm. Collier, F. M. Hunt, W. J. Dunsieth, J. J. Moore. *Christian Union*—A. D. McKinish, P. M. Holloway. *New Hope*—A. J. Chewning, O. P. Pearce. *New Harmony*—Thos. Cofield, David Knight. *Pleasant Grove*—T. J. Willingham, D. Childers. *Antioch*—Henry Kitchens, E. Beard.

While Conference was arranging for further business, an address was delivered by Rev. J. D. Elder on the Rise and Progress of the Christian Organization.

New Harmony Church petitioned for membership in the Conference.

On motion, the Church was received.

The following Committees were appointed:

On Standing of the Churches—O. P. Pearce, D. Childers, C. W. Greggs.

On Standing of the Ministry—Henry Kitchens, J. J. Moore, T. J. Willingham.

On Sabbath Schools—Jas. L. Neese, Wm. Collier, A. D. McKinish.

On Periodicals—M. J. Sorrell, F. M. Hunt, A. J, Chewning.
On Temperance—G. A. Hurst, Thos. Cofield, John Burrow.
On Education—Lewis Cofield, Joseph Elder, J. L. Neese.
On Examination of Licentiates Recommended for Ordination—M. J. Sorrell, Lewis Cofield, C. W. Greggs, J. D. Elder.

Conference then adjourned to meet Monday, October 5th, at 8½ o'clock A. M.

—o—

[Second Day.]

October 5th, 1874.

Conference met according to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. D. Elder.

On motion, the reports of the several committees were called for.

The Committee on the Standing of the Churches made the following

REPORT:

We, your committee, beg leave to report that, through the delegates and by examining the Church letters, we find all the Churches in good standing—Providence, Ga., being represented by their delegate, Brother Bumgardner—Christian Union not represented. O. P. PEARCE, Chairman.

The Committee on the Standing of the Ministry made the following

REPORT:

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we find all the ministers present in good standing and in the discharge of their duties. J. M. Wharton has been excommunicated, and is no longer a member with us, and his credentials are demanded.
J. T. WILLINGHAM, Chairman.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report that we recommend, and would urge it as a duty enjoined upon every christian, to no longer neglect the establishment of Sabbath Schools in every Church composing this Conference, as great good can be done and a powerful influence wielded among the young, in leading them from vice to morality, and pointing them to Christ as the Saviour of mankind. J. L. NEESE, Chairman.

The Committee on Temperance made the following

REPORT:

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we have long seen and earnestly deplored the great evils resulting from the use and traffic in intoxicating drinks by christian people. No one evil has been so disastrous in its influence, and, consequently, none should receive a closer attention. The Church should watch its encroachments, and by all just means try to eradicate it; and those who persist in the use, manufacture and traffic of ardent spirits as a beverage should be subject to censure, and, in extreme cases, to expulsion from the Church. Let the House of God be clean. Brethren, look well to the subject. G. M. HURST, Chairman.

The Committee on Education made the following

REPORT:

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we would recommend our denominational schools, located at Suffolk, Va., and Graham, N. C., as worthy of patronage by our denomination and all Christian brethren everywhere.

JOSEPH ELDER, Chairman.

The Committee on Periodicals made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Periodicals, beg leave to report that we would most cheerfully recommend the *Christian Sun*, published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., at Suffolk, Va., to all lovers of Christian Union and to all evangelical believers everywhere.

F. M. HUNT, Chairman.

The Committee on Examination made the following

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Examination, report that we have satisfactorily examined Brothers J. L. Neese and John Burrow, and find them qualified, and recommend that they be set apart to the office of Elders in the Church.

LEWIS COFIELD, Chairman.

Owing to the press of business, public services were omitted until 7 o'clock P. M.

Conference adjourned for half an hour.

Upon reassembling, the following Ministerial Reports were received:

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

JAS. D. ELDER—I served, as pastor, New Hope, Liberty, Antioch, constituted New Harmony Church, and preached at many other places. Have married many couples, visited the sick, and preached funerals. Upon the whole, this has been the most successful year of my ministry, and never has the prospect been so bright for the Christians in this Conference. My labors have been blessed during the year. I have been blessed with good health, and never was my mind so eager to enlist fully into the ministry. I have received into the Church 120 persons; have preached 120 sermons and delivered 26 exhortations; have baptised 49 converts; traveled 895 miles. I have not missed an appointment this year. The Lord is good to me; in Him will I trust.

C. W. GREGGS—I have preached regularly once a month during the year at Christian Union, several times at Liberty Church, and have had some other appointments. During the year I have preached 32 sermons, traveled 83 miles, married 2 couples, and baptised 3 persons. I feel that I have been blessed in my labors.

G. M. HURST—I have kept up one regular appointment and travelled 265 miles, preached 32 times The Lord has deigned to meet with and bless His poor servant. I feel more determined than ever to battle for the cause of Christ, and to His name be all the glory.

M. J. SORRELL—I have served, as pastor, Pleasant Grove Church, and preached wherever an opportunity was offered. I have labored to the best of my ability. I feel that the Lord has blessed my labors, for which I am very grateful to my Creator.

J. L. NEESE—I have had no regular appointment during the year. I have preached several times at New Hope, Antioch and Pleasant Grove Churches. I have not labored as much as I wished, being engaged in school and having protracted sickness in my family. I feel determined to try to discharge my duty, and, by the help of God, I will be enabled to do it. Though many have been my trials and difficulties through life, the Lord hath delivered me from them all, and thanks be to His holy name.

On motion, it was ordered that the next session of this body be held with Anticch Church, in Chambers county, Ala., in October, 1875, embracing the first Sunday in the month—commencing Friday night before.

On motion, it was ordered that these minutes be published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL.

On motion, the Presbytery assembled, and Brothers Jas. L. Neese and John Burrow were set apart to the office of Elders in the Church.

On motion, it was

RESOLVED, That this Conference return their thanks to the brethren and friends for their kindness and hospitality during our session in general Conference.

On motion, Rev. Jubilee Smith was appointed to deliver the Annual Sermon at the next session.

REMARKS.

The Introductory Sermon on Saturday was delivered by Rev. Jas. D. Elder; the Annual Sermon by J. D. Elder; at night Rev. M. J. Sorrell delivered a sermon. Sunday's preaching—10 o'clock, Rev. M. J. Sorrell; 11 o'clock, Rev. J. D. Elder; 3 o'clock, Rev. W. East; 7 o'clock at night, J. L. Neese. The Farewell Sermon, on Monday night, was delivered by Rev. J. D. Elder.

There were seventeen persons added to the Church during the Conference. Such meetings are not often witnessed—christians of other denominations taking part with us making no difference. God's people are one in Christ Jesus.

JAS. D. ELDER, *President.*

JAS. L. NEESE, *Secretary.*

Conferences of Colored Persons.

The North Carolina Conference was organized in the city of Raleigh in 1866, and was, perhaps, the first Conference of any denomination, composed wholly of colored persons, organized in the South after the close of the war and the emancipation of the colored race. Rev. W. B. Wellons, President of the General Christian Convention, and Rev. H. B. Hayes and Rev. J. W. Wellons were present to aid in the organization of the Conference. Rev. Wm. M. Hayes was the first President.

The Western North Carolina Conference met at White Grove, near Ridgeway, N. C., on the 4th of November. Rev. Brutus Young presided, and the session was a profitable one, but the proceedings have not yet reached us, and we can give no particulars. Their next session will be held in the city of Raleigh.

The Virginia Conference met at Zion, in Nansemond county, on the 23d of October, and had a good session. Rev. C. J. Rolston was with them one day, and assisted in the ordination of Jesse Jones to the office of Elder in the Church. The next session will be held at Providence, Norfolk county, Va.

The Eastern North Carolina Conference held its annual session at Spring Green Church, in Washington county, in September. The Conference was divided by the introduction of the doctrine and practice of the Disciples among them. What the result of this division may be, is not at present known.

The Colored Conferences will publish their proceedings together, but the proceedings have not yet reached us. We are unable to give the statistics or the names and addresses of the preachers.

During the year a new Christian Church has been organized at Hampton, Va., and in Tennessee a minister of the Western North Carolina Conference is doing a great work.

The three Conferences number about forty ministers, and about fifty-five or sixty churches.

The visits of the white ministers to their annual meetings are highly appreciated. Rev. John N. Manning and Rev. R. H. Holland will visit the Virginia Conference at its next annual session. Rev. Wm. G. Clements, Rev. J. W. Wellons and Rev. H. B. Hayes will visit the Western North Carolina Conferences at their next session.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

Eastern Virginia Conference.

ANTIOCH, ISLE OF WIGHT CO., VA., *May 26th*, 1874.

The SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION OF THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met in annual session at this place at 11 o'clock A. M. to-day. Before the calling to order, a beautiful voluntary hymn, "We 're marching on," was sung by the choir.

The Convention was then called to order by the President, after which the 5th chapter of Matthew was read in alternate verses by the President and the congregation, and an earnest, heartfelt prayer was offered by Brother John Oberry, of Holy Neck, the oldest superintendent present.

The following officers of the Convention were in their places: Rev. W. B. Wellons, President; Rev. J. N. Manning, Vice President; Rev. C. A. Apple, Secretary; Thos. J. Kilby, Esq , Treasurer.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, pastor of the church at Antioch, gave a short address of greeting, most warmly welcoming the Convention and its visitors to the hearts and homes of himself and his congregation.

The choir then sang a beautiful hymn.

The President then offered a few words of response to the address of welcome, cordially returning the thanks of the Convention to Brother Whitley and his people.

The names of members were then recorded as follows:

MINISTERS: M. B. Barrett, E. W. Beale, W. B. Wellons, J. N. Manning, C. J. Rolston, R. C. Tuck, J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple, John T. Kitchen, J. P. Barrett.

LAY DELEGATES AND SUPERINTENDENTS: *Antioch*—B. F. Roberts, Superintendent; S. Junius Carr, Alex. M. Eley, M. H. Watkins, John M. Gay, James W. Hall. *Barrett's*—M. F. Lamb, J. T. White. *Bethlehem*—R. Copeland, Superintendent;

Wm. Eley. *Berea (Nansemond)*—Elisha Everett, Superintendent. *Berea (Norfolk)*—Not represented. *Cypress*—Josiah Wilkins, Superintendent; W. H. Brinkley, W. T. Jones. *Hebron*—Jethro Rayford, T. H. Harrison. *Holy Neck*—John Oberry, Superintendent; Z. E. Holland. *Ivor*—Not represented. *Jerusalem*—Not represented. *Johnson's Grove*—None present. *Liberty*—Not represented. *Liberty Spring*—A. J. Rabey, Superintendent; R. T. Rawls. *Mount Carmel*—I. W. Duck, Superintendent; Thomas Spivey, C. W. Bailey, W. J. Saunders, Joseph H. English, Matthew Carr. *Oakland*—Not represented. *Providence*—Not reported. *Spring Hill*—H. T. West, Superintendent; John H. Harris. *Suffolk*—D. B. Dunbar, Superintendent; Thos. H. Hines, Hersey Woodward, N. B. Munford. *Sunnyside*—John T. Harris, Superintendent; James M. Holland. *Union*—Not reported. *Walnut Grove*—George T. Bradshaw, Superintendent; George Whitehead, A. H. Munford, Robert H. Barrett.

The Convention then went into an election of officers for the ensuing year:

Rev. W. B. Wellons was unanimously re-elected President.

Rev. J. N. Manning was unanimously re-elected Vice President.

On motion, P. H. Lee, I. W. Duck and B. C. Eley were re-elected members of the Executive Council.

The choir then sang a hymn from Fresh Laurels.

Rev. J. T. Whitley offered the following schedule of meeting and adjournment:

Resolved, That this Convention meet each day at 10 o'clock A. M., and take a recess at 1 P. M. for dinner, re-assemble at 2½ o'clock, and adjourn at will.

The President then announced the following question for discussion: "Who Ought to be Pupils in the Sunday School?"

Rev. E. W. Beale then proceeded to address the Convention in reply to the question. He was surprised that any member of the church should not be a worker in the Sunday School. He should go away from here discontented with himself if he did not raise his voice in earnest entreaty that every lover of the Lord Jesus Christ, old or young, should enter this work. Older persons were harder to reach than the young; but they could not excuse themselves because of their great attainments in Bible knowledge, for the majority know very little.

Rev. J. T. Whitley endorsed the views of Brother Beale.

Rev. J. N. Manning thought every person, not otherwise employed in the School, ought to be a pupil until he has gotten to a point beyond which there is nothing more to learn.

Rev. J. T. Whitley thought, further, that there was much

material not now employed in the Schools—those who come, but do not participate in the services and exercises.

Rev. C. A. Apple thought that it was good for people to attend upon the exercises of the School, even though they should not actively participate; yet all should be brought in, if possible.

Rev. W. B. Wellons related an affecting incident of an old man who sat down as member of the class, and read the New Testament with little boys of ten and twelve years of age.

After the singing by the choir of "A crown that fadeth not away," the Conference took a recess until 2½ P. M.

[Afternoon Session.]

The Convention met at the hour appointed, and after being called to order by the President, the choir sang, "When I die, will the angels come to meet me?"

The President announced the following question for discussion: "Can our Sunday School Work be Made More Efficient?"

Rev. J. N. Manning addressed the Convention. He thought greater efficiency entirely within our reach. He went on to describe the various causes which weaken the power of the teachers. He regretted that in many instances places were filled, and teachers accepted the situations, on the principle that *nobody else* would accept. Success was difficult, oftentimes, when the *whole heart* was given to the work; much more so when men were lukewarm. He criticised the state of Sunday School literature. It might be said, if much of it did no good, it would do no harm. If this were so, it was all that could be said. Further, he would have fewer and larger classes, that there might be fewer and more efficient teachers. He dwelt, further, upon the necessity of indoctrinating our people, especially the young, in the principles of our religion.

Rev. C. A. Apple addressed the Convention. He indorsed, in the main, the remarks made by the last speaker, though he thought some of his statements rather strong, and insisted that the proper subject for our consideration was, What could we do with our present means? We must not expect perfection all at once. Gradual progress must be made.

After an enlivening hymn by the choir, Superintendent Josiah Wilkins spoke, encouraging his brethren to work in the cause.

Superintendent John T. Harris detailed his experience in the School at Sunnyside. He thought that more earnestness in Christian duty was the great want.

The President announced as a question for discussion, "How long ought the exercises of the Sunday School to continue?"

Rev. R. C. Tuck addressed the Convention. He thought that there were errors in two ways: in continuing too long, and in not continuing long enough. About one hour to an hour and a half was what he thought right. Various superintendents detailed their own experience, showing the practice varied from one to two hours. Rev. J. T. Whitley thought a little over an hour amply sufficient.

The choir then sang, "We shall know each other there."

The President then called for general remarks from the brethren.

Rev. M. B. Barrett spoke very warmly for the work, giving the experience of the church of his pastoral charge at Barrett's, showing its great success and blessed effects.

Rev. E. W. Beale said that our greatest aim should be to discuss and form plans for increasing the efficiency of our work.

Rev. C. J. Rolston spoke, stating that he felt encouraged in the work, though not as efficient as he hoped to see it.

Rev. C. A. Apple related an anecdote of a brother who could not attend the Sunday School because he had visitors.

Rev. W. B. Wellons urged the importance of the Sunday School as a work in every sense identified with the true and proper work of the church. Some, incorrectly, supposed that the two were distinct, and seemed to think that they had done enough, when they attended to the other duties demanded of them as members of the church.

The President then announced as the regular Committee on Finance to audit accounts of the Treasurer: Wm. Eley, H. T. West, Elisha Everett.

The choir then sang, "Happy voices on the other shore."

After which the Convention adjourned until the usual hour to-morrow.

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[Second Day.]

The Convention met at the appointed time, and was called to order by the President.

The choir sang, "Songs of the Beautiful."

Prayer was then offered by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

Rev. R. H. Holland arrived and took his seat in the Convention.

Brethren B. F. Cutchin and Joseph King, of Suffolk, arrived and took seats. Also, Brother John W. Roberts, of Cherry

Grove, and Brother John R. Bradshaw, Superintendent of the same.

Rev. John Scott, agent of the American Sunday School Union, and Rev. John R. Watkins, of the Baptist Church, were introduced to the Convention.

The choir then sang, "My Beautiful Home,"

Reports were received and read from Antioch and Cherry Grove.

A circular letter was received from the Board of Directors of a benevolent association entitled "Christ's Little Workers," which was explained by Brother Joseph King.

Rev. J. T. Whitley offered the following preamble and resolutions, which, after some discussion, were adopted:

WHEREAS, A society has been organized in our midst, called "Christ's Little Workers," the object of which is to supply the destitute with religious reading matter; therefore,

1. RESOLVED, That this Convention hails with pleasure the organization of this society, and earnestly commend it to the sympathies and substantial aid of our Schools.

2. RESOLVED, That Pastors and Superintendents in this body, and all other proper persons, be requested to act as agents in increasing the means and distributing the benefactions of this organization.

The choir then sang, "There is always something for children to do."

The Chair announced as the question for discussion: "The best means of leading little ones to Christ, and the expediency of their being encouraged to publicly confess Christ, and unite with the Church."

Rev. C. A. Apple addressed the Convention. He thought many false ideas existed relative to what true Christianity really is. Christ is the embodiment and personification of that which redeems, blesses and sanctifies humanity. Divine, as to origin; human, as to sympathies. The means of doing this work were not very easily defined in a few words. He went on briefly to touch upon several of these points, and pointed out various popular errors. Means ought to be suited to circumstances. He held all things to be means which taught a child truth. Let us inculcate, by precept and *example*, honesty, truth, love to our fellowmen, obedience, reverence, gentleness, benevolence, industry, fidelity. Present these as duties towards God and man, and proper results will follow.

Rev. J. T. Whitley confined himself to the latter part of the question. He answered decidedly in the affirmative. Children in his pastoral charge were more faithful members than even older persons. He had been compelled to exercise discipline against them far less frequently.

Rev. M. B. Barrett had had similar experience, and among

the happiest moments of his life were those in which he had welcomed children of his pastoral charge into the Church.

Rev. J. N. Manning thought that the best means to induce the children to love Jesus was to convince them that *Jesus loved them.*

Rev. W. B. Wellons most heartily endorsed the position taken by Brother Whitley.

The choir then sang, "Lead me to Jesus," after which the Convention took a recess until 2½ P. M.

[Afternoon Session.]

The Convention met at the hour appointed, and was called to order by the President.

The choir sang, "What shall I do with Jesus?"

Reports were received and read from Holland's—a branch School of Holy Neck—and Spikes' Spring.

The Special Committee upon a Sunday School Paper, reported, through Rev. C. A. Apple, their chairman, as follows:

We, your committee appointed at your last session to confer with other Sunday School organizations in regard to the establishment of a Sunday School paper, would report;

That we fully carried out the instructions given us, and that the answer returned was, in every case, favorable to such an enterprise, if, in our opinion, it was practicable. We found it difficult, however, to make the necessary business arrangements, and were expecting to return to you at your present session for further instructions, when Rev. Brothers W. B. Wellons and J. T. Whitley concluded to issue such a paper as a private enterprise. They have, under this arrangement, brought out the paper entitled the Little Christian, which has now been before our people for some weeks. It has met general favor thus far, and we hope and believe that, in the future, it will be rendered still more worthy of universal support. We, therefore, earnestly commend it to the patronage of our people.

Respectfully submitted.

C. A. Apple,
E. W. Beale.

The report was adopted.

The Committee on Finance reported, through Col. Wm. Eley, their chairman, showing a balance in hand, for defraying the printing and other expenses of the Convention, of $47.82, sufficient for our purposes at present, but that several Schools have not yet paid their quota.

The Convention then went into the selection of a place for the next meeting. Damascus, Gates county, N. C., was chosen.

Superintendent Elisha Everett offered a preamble and resolution proposing to change the time for meeting from Tuesday after the fourth Sunday in May to Tuesday after the third Sunday in July.

Rev. W. B. Wellons opposed the resolution. Several lay brethren spoke in favor of it. The resolution was adopted.

The Convention returned thanks to the people at Antioch.

The choir then sang, "The Golden Rule."

After some general remarks by several of the brethren, the Convention adjourned to meet again at Damascus, Gates county, N. C., on Tuesday after the third Sunday in July, 1875.

C. A. APPLE, *Secretary*.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

SCHOOLS.	Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	Average Attendance.	Total.	Number of Volumes in Library.	Sunday School Papers.	Collections.	Disbursements.	Conversions.
Antioch	24	113	74	137	500	100	$51 62	$40 64	...
Berea (Nansemond)	15	50	40	65	300	25	95 00	78 50	6
Berea (Norfolk)	13	52	35	65	95	35	2 20	1 00	...
Barrett's	17	94	50	111	54	25	8 50	8 50	30
Bethlehem	15	70	40	85	80	30	1 53	2 14	9
Cypress	12	62	40	74	225	40	15 25	15 25	...
Cherry Grove	11	40	21	51	75	10	3 00	2 00	6
Hebron	12	60	45	72	75	25	5 00	5 00	...
Holland's	10	40	33	50	...	...			...
Holy Heck	15	125	70	140	150	65	20 00	20 00	10
Johnson's Grove	13	65	40	78	30	20	8 75	8 75	...
Liberty Spring	16	62	50	78	100	30	5 45	5 45	...
Liberty	12	36	25	48	100	10			...
Mt. Carmel	18	112	81	130	175	40	4 80	4 19	7
Spring Hill	13	30	25	43	50	30	26 00	26 00	4
Suffolk	28	131	91	159	540	100	28 50	28 50	17
Sunnyside	12	45	35	57	125	...	12 00	12 00	12
Walnut Grove	15	80	47	95	151	10	52	2 05	...
Totals	271	1267	839	1498	2825	595	288 12	259 97	101

No reports were received from the Schools at Providence, Sharon, Oakland, Ivor, Damascus, Union and Elm Grove.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY.

ELDERS.

Albright, Joseph....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Albright, H. A.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Allen, Chastien Oxford, N. C.
Allen, P. W.....Henderson, N. C.
Anderson, A. G...Anderson's Store, N.C.
Apple, Alfred.....Red Bank, Va.
Apple, Solomon.....Milton, N. C.
Apple, C. A.....Holy Neck, Va.
Ausley, J. B..... Jonesborough, N. C.
Barrett, S. S.....Norfolk, Va.
Barrett, M. B. Ivor, Va.
Beale, E. W.....Suffolk, Va.
Boon, C. A.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Brown, Wm. R.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Brady, Wm. G.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Burrow, John.....Wedowee, Ala.
Clements, W. G.....Morrisville, N. C.
Cofield, Lewis.....Wedowee, Ala.
Costen, R. H.....Norfolk, Va.
Craven, Wm. M....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Deanes, D. T.....Summerfield, N C.
Elder, J. D..... Milltown, Ala.
Farrell, John N.....Lockville, N. C.
Fowler, Thos. J.....Mebaneville, N. C.
Franks, Wm. H..... Raleigh, N. C.
Greggs, C. W.....Wedowee, Ala.
Hampton, T. P.....Walkertown, N. C.
Harding, James A...Macksville, W. Va.
Hatch, John W.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Hayes, H. B.....Raleigh, N. C.
Holland, R. H..... Carrsville, Va.
Hurley, M. L.....McCray's Store, N. C.
Hurst, G. M.....Milnor, Ala.
Iseley, Alfred.... Company Shops, N. C.
Lawrence, Jno. S...Browers' Mills, N. C.
Lawrence, W. W...Browers' Mills, N. C.
Long, Wm. S.....Graham, N. C.
Long, D. A..... ...Graham, N. C.
Manning, J. N..... Norfolk, Va.
Neese, J. L.....Milltown, Ala.
Nelson, A. S.....Carter's Mills, N. C.
Rawls. Robert Ivor, Va.
Rolston, C. J.....Nurneysville, Va.
Smith, Jubilee.....Richland, Ga.
Sorrell, M. J.....West Point, Ga.
Staley, W. W.....Graham, N. C.
Tinnen, R. G.....Cedar Grove, N. C.
Tuck, R. C..... Norfolk, Va.
Walker, Wm. T.....Harrisonburg, Va.
Wellons, W. B..... Suffolk, Va.
Wellons, J. W. Franklinton, N. C.
Whitley, J. T.....Windsor, Va.
Woods, G. W.....New Market, Va.

LICENTIATES.

Barrett, J. P.....Windsor, Va.
Elder, Thomas H.....Milltown, Ala.
Ellis, S. I.....Chapel Hill, N. C.
Holt, J. W.....Graham, N. C.
Humble, P. P.....Buffalo Ford, N. C.
Iseley, A. F.....Company Shops, N. C.
Kitchen, John T.....Norfolk, Va.
Klapp, Peter T. Graham, N. C.
Manning, W. J.....Milltown, Ala.
McLeod, D. B..... Troy, N. C.
Pinnix, R. W...Anderson's Store, N. C.
Scott, Jno. A....Company Shops, N. C.
Williams, John C.....Edom, Va.
Winston, M. L.....Dutchville, N. C.

ORDINATIONS.

John Burrow.....Georgia and Alabama Conference
J. L. Neese.....Georgia and Alabama Conference
Wm. W. Staley.....North Carolina Conference
H. A. Albright.....Deep River Conference
Wm. G. Brady.....Deep River Conference

LICENSED.

Thomas H. Elder.....Georgia and Alabama Conference

DEPOSED FROM THE MINISTRY.

J. M. Wharton.....Georgia and Alabama Conference

DIED.

Rev. N. B. Kiracofe.....Valley Virginia Conference
Rev. Thomas Truitt.....North Carolina Conference

NEW CHURCHES ORGANIZED

Harmony.....Chambers county, Ala.

DEDICATIONS.

1873 / 1874
Liberty Spring, Nansemond county, Va.....December 31st, 1873
Damascus, Gates county, N. C.....August 2d, 1874
Ivor, Southampton county, Va.....August 30th, 1874
Good Hope, Granville county, N. C.....January 18th, 1874

EDUCATION.

THE SUFFOLK COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE,

located at Suffolk, Va., is in the main patronized by the Christians. It is entirely unsectarian, and has taken high position among the best schools of the State. It has a Male and Female Department.

FACULTY:

Joseph King, A.B.....Natural Sciences, Mathematics, English Literature, and History
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CHRISTIAN BOOK CONCERN.

The Publishing House of the Christians is located at Suffolk, Va.

The Christian Hymn Book, Principles and Government of the Christian Church, Apple's Sunday School Manual, and the Christian Annual are published by the Concern.

The *Christian Sun* is published weekly.

The *Little Christian* is published semi-monthly.

All orders for Books or Periodicals should be sent to Rev. W. B. Wellons.

PLACES OF MEETING FOR THE CONFERENCES, 1875.

Eastern Virginia	Berea, Nansemond county, November 3d
Valley Virginia	Bethlehem, Rockingham county, September 2d
North Carolina	Pope's, Granville county, November 19th
Deep River	Shiloh, Randolph county, October 7th
Georgia and Alabama	Antioch, Chambers county, Ala., October 1st

POSITION ON CHRISTIAN UNION.

The CHRISTIANS have always been the earnest advocates of union among the followers of Christ. They have ever practiced union, when practicable. They recognize all Evangelical ministers in their office, and their pulpits have been open to them. They are ready to worship and work with all believers in Christ, of every name. To the communion table, when spread by them, all believers are invited. Christian ministers are always ready to associate with all who love Christ, and to have fellowship with all who accept him as their Saviour. They cling to the name Christian, because there is nothing exclusive in it, and reject all party names because of their exclusiveness. They acknowledge no Head, no leader but Christ, because all believers are one in Him. They object to all creeds which cannot be expressed in the precise language of the Scriptures, because in a creed expressed in the teachings of Divine inspiration all may agree. They have adopted Christian character as their test of fellowship, believing that all who believe in Jesus and trust in him for salvation, ought to be received to christian and church fellowship. They, therefore, profess to receive all to their fellowship who give credible evidence that Christ has received them. They only require unity of sentiment in the essentials of religion, and extend to all the right of private judgment in things not considered essential to salvation.

These principles they cling to with much tenacity because the people of God may thus be united in feeling and practice. In the great, grand union movement of the day, the Christians find themselves in the front rank. But they are willing to be considered the most humble, and even absorbed, in the great army of union lovers and workers now concentrating upon the great principles which they have long cherished and practiced.

The Christians have taken the world for their field of labor, and are endeavoring to bring together in co-operation the liberal and good everywhere.

ORGANIZATION OF NEW CHURCHES.

All who desire information in reference to the formation of new churches upon the platform of the Christians, will receive all the information desired by addressing Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., President of the General Christian Convention, at Suffolk, Va., or any other regular minister in the Organization.

PERIODICALS.

The CHRISTIAN SUN is the only paper published directly in the interest of that organization represented in the columns of this ANNUAL. Published every Friday at Suffolk, Va. The price of subscription is $2.50 per year. It enters upon its XXVIIIth volume January 1st, 1875. Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., is its Editor and Proprietor, to whom all orders should be sent.

REVIVALS.

Many precious revivals were enjoyed in 1874.

Early in March a gracious work commenced in the Suffolk Christian Church, resulting in the conversion of twenty persons.

At Cypress Chapel, Va., the last of July, forty-five persons were converted under the labors of Rev. E. W. Beale and others.

Five persons were converted at Hanks' Chapel, N. C., the last of July, under the labors of Rev. D. A. Long and others.

Fifty-nine persons were converted in a revival at Hebron, Va., the first week in August, under the labors of Rev. C. J. Rolston and others.

At a meeting at Berea, Norfolk county, Va., the last of July, about twenty-five persons were converted under the labors of Rev. R. C. Tuck.

In connection with the dedication of the new house of worship at Damascus, Gates county, N. C., the first week in August, sixty-seven persons were converted. Rev. E. W. Beale conducted the meeting, and was assisted by Bro. Kitchen and others.

Twenty persons were converted at Oak Level, N. C., the second week in August, under the labors of Rev. J. W. Wellons and others.

Under the labors of Rev. M. B. Barrett and others, at Mt. Carmel, Va., thirty-five persons were converted the first week in August.

At Spring Hill, Va., under the labors of Rev. J. T. Whitley, sixty-one persons were relieved of the burden of sin, the first week in August.

Rev. R. C. Tuck held a meeting at Sharon, N. C., the second week in August, resulting in the conversion of sixteen persons.

At Mt. Auburn, N. C., early in August, fourteen persons were converted. Rev. D. A. Long conducted the meeting.

At Johnson's Grove, Va., a gracious revival was experienced under the labors of Bro. J. P. Barrett and others, in September, sixty-four persons professing faith in Christ.

At Oakland, Va., twenty-four persons were converted in August. Rev. E. W. Beale conducted the meeting.

Twenty-two persons believed in Jesus at a meeting at Graham, N. C., in August, conducted by Rev. Wm. S. Long.

Thirty-six persons were converted at Barrett's, Va., in August, at a meeting held by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

At Antioch, N. C., Rev. J. W. Hatch conducted a meeting in August, resulting in the Conversion of thirty persons.

Rev. A. Apple held a good meeting early in September at O'Kelly's, N. C. Six persons were converted.

At Pleasant Grove, Va., Rev. S. Apple conducted a good meeting early in September. Fifteen persons converted.

At Moore Union, in North Carolina, ten persons were converted early in September, under the labors of Rev. C. A. Boon and others. In the same month Bro. Boon conducted a meeting at Christian Chapel. Fifteen persons converted.

At Union, Va., Rev. J. W. Wellons held a meeting in September, and twenty persons were converted.

Rev. J. D. Elder conducted two revival meetings at Liberty and Antioch, Ala., in September, resulting in the conversion of more than sixty persons.

Under the labors of Rev. C. J. Rolston and others, twenty-three persons were converted at Ivor, in the meeting following the dedication of the new church at that place, the last of August.

In September a second revival season was enjoyed in Suffolk, resulting in the conversion of fifteen persons.

At Catawba Springs, N. C., fifteen persons were converted in August. Rev. J. N. Farrell led the exercises. He conducted another meeting at Wake Chapel, N. C., the same month, resulting in the conversion of thirty persons; and at Pleasant Hill, N. C., thirty persons were converted. Rev. A. Iseley aided in these meetings.

At Bethlehem, N. C., Rev. A. Iseley held a meeting in September, resulting in the conversion of thirty-five persons.

Twelve persons were converted at Union, Southampton county, Va., in September, under the labors of Rev. M. B. Barrett and others.

At Morrisville, N. C., in September, Rev. Thomas J. Fowler held a protracted meeting, and fifteen persons were converted.

At Carolina Mills, N. C., Bro. P. T. Klapp held a meeting in September and thirty-eight persons were converted.

At Antioch, Va., Rev. J. T Whitley held a meeting in September of great interest. Fifty-nine persons converted.

Rev. J. T. Whitley held a good meeting at Sunnyside, Va., in September. Twelve persons converted.

Bro. John T. Kitchen conducted a very successful revival meeting at Liberty, Va., in September. Forty-seven persons happily converted.

At Shallow Well, N. C., in September, Rev. C. A. Boon had a good meeting. Twenty-five conversions.

A good meeting was held by Rev. J. W. Wellons at Pope's, N. C., in October. Eighteen converts.

At New Elam, N. C., Rev. W. G. Clements held a good revival meeting in September.

A gracious revival was experienced at Union, N. C., in November, resulting in the conversion of forty-one persons. The meeting was conducted by Rev. A. Iseley, aided by Rev. J. W. Wellons and others.

Other seasons of revival may have occurred during the year, which we failed to note. Gracious, indeed, has the Lord been to his people. To Him be all the glory.

NEW UNION MOVEMENT.

On the 21st of October, 1874, a Convention of the lovers of Christian union met in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, to consider the great subject of organic Christian unity. Representatives of six different religious organizations appeared, and were in council for four days. A Basis of Union was agreed upon, which is here given in substance, with the declarations of the Convention:

BASIS.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are an infallible revelation from God, and a sufficient rule of faith and practice.

Doctrinal views generally held by all Evangelical believers and endorsed by the Convention.

1. The unity of God. 2. The Divinity of Christ, 3. The human and Divine natures of Christ. 4. The personality of the Holy Ghost, and the oneness of Father, Son and Spirit. 5. The universal sinfulness of man. 6. The atonement of Christ through his suffering and death. 7. Justification by faith. 8. Regeneration and sanctification. 9. Repentance. 10. Obedience. 11. That good works necessarily flow from true faith. 12. Love to God and man. 13. Christian forbearance. 14. The right of private judgment. 15. Christ's death and resurrection. 16. The Judgment. 17. Endless rewards and punishments. 18. The universality of the church.

Rules for the reception of ministers and members and the establishment of churches were agreed upon, and for the proper administration of discipline in the church, concluding with the following

DECLARATION:

As Evangelical ministers of the various orthodox denominations cordially recognize each other as ministers of Christ, notwithstanding denominational differences, so do we recognize them.

And inasmuch as Christ receives as his ministers those who are not of one mind concerning Calvinism or Arminianism; or as to Episcopal or Methodist Episcopal, or Congregational or Presbyterian church government; or as to infant baptism or believer's baptism only; or as to immersion or sprinkling, or any other denominational peculiarity—neither do we require an assent to any denominational peculiarity as a condition of fellowship.

Whoever gives us Scriptural evidence that Christ has received him as His minister, we will also receive to cordial and unrestricted fellowship, in cheerful obedience to Christ.

But as Christ requires that his Gospel shall be committed to "faithful men who shall be able to teach others also," and that his ministers shall "be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers;" we will require all ministers of the Gospel asking our recognition and fellowship, whether called bishops or elders, and whether proposing to exercise the functions of pastors, evangelists or teachers, to give satisfactory evidence that they receive substantially in their plain evangelical sense the passages of Scripture quoted in the basis.

We distinctly disclaim all intention to require an assent to any human modification of these Scriptures or any human inferences therefrom, and we affirm it to be our purpose only to require an assent to God's own truth expressed in God's own language, as it has been commonly received by Christ's ministers and people in all times and in all places.

To which the following was appended:

All ministers and churches adopting this basis will be recognized and enrolled as Union Christian ministers and churches to be known as the "Union Christian Churches of America."

Any minister who has adopted this basis, but who does not deem it expedient to sever existing denominational relations, shall, at his request, be enrolled, notwithstanding.

Ministers are requested to signify their adoption of this basis by a letter addressed to Rev. W. B Wellons, D.D., Suffolk, Va.

Churches desiring to take action concerning this basis are requested to give public notice of a meeting for that purpose.

When the church is convened it is suggested that the basis be read, and that then a vote be taken on the two following questions:

First—Do you approve the "Union Christian Basis?"

Second—Do you adopt the "Union Christian Basis?"

The Secretary of the meeting is requested to signify the result in a letter addressed to Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., Suffolk, Va.

All churches either approving or adopting this basis are requested to appoint one or more delegates to attend a General Convention of the "Union Christian Churches," at Suffolk, Virginia, on the first Wednesday of May, 1875. All ministers adopting the basis, including those who may not have severed heretofore existing denominational relations, are also invited to attend this Convention, to take counsel concerning the promotion of Christian union and the conversion of the world.

The basis is sustained by appropriate quotations from the Scriptures, and has been published in full for distribution among all ministers and churches of every denomination. A neat pamphlet, containing the Basis of Union in full, with its Scripture supports, and the rules for the reception of ministers and members, with the Declaration of the body, may be obtained by addressing Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D, at Suffolk, Va., who is the Corresponding Secretary of the new organization.

As will be seen in the above, it is proposed to have a second meeting of the Convention to convene at Suffolk, Va., on the first Wednesday (5th) of May, 1875. This Convention will be composed of all ministers and the representatives of churches who may endorse the Basis of Union adopted at Cincinnati, and other lovers of union who may wish to attend. At this Convention, a committee, of which Rev. Thomas J. Melish, of Cincinnati, is chairman, will present a plan for the organization and co-operation of all who may become united.

The next meeting of the "Union Christian Churches of America" is looked to by the lovers of union with great interest.

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ANNUAL

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FOR

1875.

EDITED BY

W. B. WELLONS, D.D.

VOLUME V.

SUFFOLK, VA.
CHRISTIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.
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1875.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
The Christians	3
Minutes of the Eastern Virginia Conference	5
Minutes of the Valley Virginia Conference	20
Minutes of the Deep River Conference	25
Minutes of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference	31
Minutes of the Georgia and Alabama Conference	45
Appendix to Conference Proceedings	48
Conferences of Colored Persons	51
Proceedings of the Sunday School Convention	52
Ministerial Directory	60
Ordinations	61
Licensed	61
Dedications	61
Education	61
Christian Book Concern	61
Places of Meeting for the Conferences, 1876	62
Position on Christian Union	62
Christian Chronology	62
Union Christian Churches of America	63
Revivals	63
Books for Sale	65
New Publications	66
The Christian Sun—Book and Job Office	Last Page of cover

The Christians.

The Christian organization came into existence with the avowed purpose of seeking to unite the followers of Christ of every persuasion, by the breaking down of party walls, party spirit, and sectarian feeling and practice, and by infusing into the minds and hearts of all lovers of the common Saviour a liberal spirit, thereby inducing liberal practice. That feeling which is now gaining strength day by day, they espoused when but few were found to sympathize with or co-operate with them. With this object prominently in view, the founders of the organization decided to discard all party names, and adopt the simple name Christian, to the exclusion of all others, acknowledging no head to the Church but Christ. They resolved to have no rule of faith and practice, but the Holy Scriptures. The test of fellowship agreed upon was Christian Character. With these principles they determined that the right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience should be accorded to, and enjoyed by all, in reference to those points of doctrine and practice not considered essential to salvation. They decided that all who believe in, and love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, ought to be received into the fellowship and communion of the Church.

The Christians have no peculiar doctrines of their own to advocate. They hold tenaciously to those doctrines alone which are considered essential or fundamental in the constitution of the Church. On all minor and unessential doctrines, they extend to all the fullest liberty and the freest exercise of their right of private judgment.

They have adopted a "Declaration of Principles," showing their unwavering faith in the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel, and devised a "Form of Government," on the basis of the Holy Scriptures, and have published a "Directory for Worship" and the administration of the Ordinances, which secures a great degree of uniformity in their practice.

As an independent organization, it has taken its position side by side with the Evangelical denominations of the world.

The strong union sentiment now permeating, to a greater or less extent, all denominations, is so much in keeping with the spirit which has long prevailed among the Christians, that the position occupied by them is regarded with much more favor by liberal-minded, thinking Christian men, than ever before. All the signs of the times seem to point to the Christian organization as the nucleus around which the great Union Church of the future is to gather, when the evil of party names shall be seen and shunned, the Holy Scriptures become the infallible rule to all, and brotherly love and charity reign throughout the whole body.

The future is bright with promise to the Christians, and year by year they are putting on new zeal, and going forward with new energy, and hope, and faith.

This annual publication, now issued for the fifth year, is published with a view of acquainting the public more fully with the Christian organization—its history, its principles, its government, and its work. In years agone, the organization did not occupy its true position before the great public, and prejudices existed in the minds of many against it, which would never have been indulged, if proper information could have been obtained. To place the Christians before the public in a true position is one great object aimed at in the issuing of this Annual.

The proceedings of the Conferences, and other matter, show the means being used for the permanent continuance of the organization.

Although to some extent a separate and distinct organization from all others, yet it is not a sect, in the usual acceptation and true definition of that term. The organization claims no name which is not common to all believers in Christ. It has no peculiar doctrines of its own to advocate: accepting, as it does, the doctrines generally held by Protestant and Evangelical Christians as theirs. It asks and earnestly seeks the co-operation of all the followers of the Saviour in extending the benefits and comforts of the religion of Jesus to the whole human race.

The organization was formed not to separate the disciples of the Lord, and make itself thereby a sect and its members sectarians, but it was formed for the purpose of uniting all the people of God in good works and in the propagation of the great truths of the Gospel.

The peculiar doctrines and tenets which have so long confused and distracted the Church, producing division and multiplying sects, cease to be matters for debate and discussion in the CHRISTIAN organization. Holding the great fundamental doctrines and principles of the Gospel in common with the evangelical portion of the Protestant world, and extending to all the right of private judgment in all things not considered essential to salvation, no compromise of faith or opinion is required in order to communion and church fellowship. Denominational distinctions thus cease to exist, so far as christian fellowship and communion is concerned, and love binds the whole brotherhood together.

The purposes and aims of the organization will be consummated only, when the world is reformed and the union of all the children of the common Father is effected.

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Fifth Annual Session of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.

BEREA, NANSEMOND CO., VA., November 3, 1875.

THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled at this place to-day in its fifty-fifth annual session. Rev. J. N. Manning, President of the last session, called the body to order at 12 o'clock noon, and prayer was offered by the Rev. M. B. Barrett.

By direction of the President, the Standing Secretary called the roll of Elders, Licentiates and Churches, and the following ministers and lay-delegates were ascertained to be present:

ELDERS.—W. B. Wellons, D.D., M. B. Barrett, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley, and E. W. Beale.

LICENTIATES.—John T. Kitchen, J. Pressley Barrett.

LAY-DELEGATES.—*Antioch.*—M. L. Watkins, A. M. Eley, B. C. Roberts. *Barretts.*—B. B. Harris. *Bethlehem* —Richard Copeland, Thomas Parker, C. P. Norfleet. *Berea* [Nansemond]. —Alex. Savage, W. J. Lee. *Cypress.*—W. H. Brinkley, W. H. Eley. *Damascus.*—Prentice Duke. *Holy Neck.*—John Oberry, P. H. Lee. *Ivor.*—D. N. Rawls, Jno. W. Brittle. *Johnson's Grove.*—Wm. T. Davis, John Wellons. *Liberty Spring.*—John W. Lassiter. *Mt. Carmel.*—J. E. T. Joyner, T. M. Murray. *Oakland.*—T. J. Saunders, Jas. W. Stone. *Spring Hill.*—H. T. West. *Suffolk.*—J. T. Nurney, Jacob Lawshe. *Union.*—Jethro Cobb, G. W. Cobb.

[For a full list of ministers and delegates present, see Statistical Table.]

A quorum being present, and the next business in order being the election of a President, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., was nominated and unanimously elected to that office.

Dr. Wellons, on taking his position as presiding officer of the Conference, made a brief address, expressing his appreciation of the honor conferred upon him, and making some pertinent suggestions as to the future work of the body.

On motion, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett was chosen Assistant Secretary.

The President announced the delivery of the annual sermon as next in order. Rev. C. A. Apple, of Holy Neck, who was

appointed for that purpose at the last annual session, proceeded, after appropriate devotional services, to the delivery of a carefully-prepared and excellent sermon on "The Essentials of Religion," based upon the following passages of Scripture: "*Wo unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint, and anise, and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law; judgment, mercy and faith; these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel.*"—Matt. 23: 23 and 24. "*For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel.*"—1 Cor. 1: 17.

After the sermon, business was resumed.

The following delegates arrived and had their names enrolled: John Norfleet, *Holy Neck;* Joseph W. Ballard and James H. Daughtrey, *Hebron;* R. F. Rogers, *Liberty Spring.*

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. C. J. Rolston, of the Virginia Valley Conference, was welcomed to a seat in the Conference as a fraternal messenger and accorded the privileges of a deliberative member.

Rev. J. C. Reed, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was introduced by Rev. E. W. Beale to the President, and by the President to the Conference.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, a recess was taken for one hour for refreshments.

[Afternoon Session.]

The Conference came to order at the call of the President.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the By-Laws and Rules of Order adopted by the Conference of 1872, after being read by the Secretary, were adopted for the government of this body, so far as they do not conflict with the Form of Government of the Christian Church.

Reports of the operations of the Churches for the past year were called for and read from the following Churches: Antioch, Barrett's Bethlehem, Berea [Nansemond], Cypress, Damascus, Hebron, Holy Neck, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Liberty, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Sharon, Suffolk and Union.

A letter was read from Rev. S. S. Barrett, an absent Elder.

A letter addressed to Rev. J. T. Whitley by Col. John B. Cary, of the Disciples' Church, Richmond, expressing fraternal regards towards this Conference was read, and appropriate remarks were made thereupon by the President.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the Conference adopted the following schedule of times for meeting and adjournment: Meet each day at 10 o'clock A. M., take a recess at 12 M. for public

services and refreshments; meet again at 2 P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. E. W. Beale, Col. Alex. Savage and Willis J. Lee were appointed a committee on Religious Exercises for the present session.

The Standing Committee on Sunday Schools offered the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools have the profound gratification of reporting that the Sunday School cause throughout the world is progressing with steady and rapid tread. In the United States at the present time there are 69,871 Schools with a total membership of 6,543,708 persons. In the State of Virginia God's people are industriously engaged in teaching Bible truth to scholars of all ages, classes and conditions of life. While no accurate statistics can be obtained, it is known that Virginia is in the front rank of those States that are distinguished in Sunday School work. A large and enthusiastic Convention of workers of all evangelical denominations in the Commonwealth has just been held, which will doubtless give a fresh impulse to the religious education of our people.

The Churches composing this Conference are actively engaged in this great enterprise. The number of Schools in the Conference is greater than the number of Churches. For eight years past an annual Convention of these Schools has been held, for consultation and inspiration in the common cause. The last Convention was held in July last, was well attended, and the exercises were of a deeply interesting and highly profitable character. It was there ascertained that the various schools are prosperous and progressive. The International Lessons, published in *The Little Christian*, are almost universally used, and the result is greater efficiency in teaching, and greater interest in studying the Holy Scriptures. The future of the Sunday School cause in our midst is full of promise.

We suggest that the Conference consider, as maturely as time will allow, the following topics:

1. By what authority should the officers and teachers be appointed?
2. By what means can the Schools be more liberally supplied with money to purchase the necessary books and apparatus?
3. What means can be adopted to train teachers more thoroughly for their work?
4. How can adults be induced to study the Bible with system and regularity?

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. WHITLEY,
M. B. BARRETT,
JOHN OBERRY,
} Comm't'e.

A motion being made for the adoption of the report, the whole subject was thrown open for discussion.

Rev. C. A. Apple gave an interesting account of his recent visit to the State Sunday School Convention in Richmond, and made valuable suggestions upon the questions propounded in the report.

Rev. J. T. Whitley thought that the expenses of the Sunday School should come out of the Church treasury; that the Quarterly Conference should appoint the Superintendent, and he the other officers and teachers.

Rev. C. A. Apple moved to lay the report on the table and make it the special order for to-morrow 10½ o'clock. Carried.

The committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. J. Pressley Barrett to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

On motion the standing committee on Temperance was allowed to defer its report until to-morrow.

The Conference then adjourned until to-morrow. Prayer was offered by Rev. J. T. Kitchen, and the benediction was pronounced by the President.

———o———

[Second Day.]

Nov. 4, 1875.

The Conference met this morning and was called to order by the President. Devotional exercises were engaged in, after which the body resumed its business.

The roll of ministers and delegates was called and the proceedings of yesterday's session were read and approved.

The following new members arrived and had their names enrolled: J. R. Hinton, *Damascus;* Dr. O. H. Baird, *Spring Hill;* J. Edward Riddick, *Cypress.* These brethren were called upon for excuses for their tardiness, and each was excused.

The following ministerial students were enrolled as deliberative members, according to the By-Laws of the Conference: Nathan B. Munford, H. H. Butler, C. W. Cain.

The special order of the hour being the consideration of the report on Sunday Schools, laid on the table yesterday, the matter was taken up and the report re-read.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett spoke briefly in favor of a more thorough study of God's Word, suggesting a plan of morning and evening readings.

He was followed in some remarks by Revs. J. T. Whitley, and C. A. Apple.

Dr. O. H. Baird thought that if everybody, old and young, could be brought into the Sunday School, there would be comparatively little difficulty in inducing adults to study the Scriptures.

Rev. C. J. Rolston had found difficulty in getting persons to study after bringing them into the School. He commended the procuring of better teachers. Thought the pastor should appoint the officers and teachers.

Rev. Dr. Wellons called Rev. J. T. Whitley to the Chair and spoke on the report. He thought that the Superintendent ought to be appointed either by the Quarterly Conference or the Pastor of the Church. The office of Assistant Superintendent was unnecessary. Thought that half of the Sunday School teachers with whom he was acquainted ought to resign. Schools generally have too many teachers. Teachers' meetings should be held for the improvement of teachers.

Bro. T. M. Murray thought the Pastor should nominate the Superintendent and the Quarterly Conference should elect.

The report on Sabbath Schools was then unanimously adopted.

On motion, the following members were appointed a special committee on Periodicals: Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Col. A. Savage and B. C. Roberts.

Bro. T. M. Murray offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this Conference are hereby tendered Rev. C. A. Apple for the appropriate and highly appreciated annual sermon delivered by him before the body on yesterday.

Resolved, That Bro. Apple be requested to furnish a copy of the sermon for publication, by consent of the Editor, in the *Christian Sun*.

Bros. A. Savage and Willis J. Lee, tardy members, rendered their reasons and were excused.

On motion, the following special committee was appointed to examine the records of the local Churches: Rev. M. B. Barrett, Dr. O. H. Baird and J. T. Nurney.

Reports of the past year's labors were handed in and read from the following ministers: C. A. Apple, J. Pressley Barrett, M. B. Barrett, J. T. Kitchen, E. W. Beale and J. T. Whitley.

On motion, the following members were appointed a special committee to prepare a blank form for ministerial reports: Rev. J. T. Whitley, P. H. Lee and Richard Copeland.

On motion of Bro. M. L. Watkins, the Conference went into the choice of a place for the holding of the next annual session. Suffolk was put in nomination and unanimously chosen.

Rev. E. W. Beale was elected to preach the annual sermon.

A recess was then taken for public services and refreshments, during which Rev. J. Pressley Barrett preached an impressive sermon on "The Spirit of the Christian Religion," taking as his text John 3: 30." *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

[Afternoon Session.]

The President took the Chair and the Conference resumed its business.

Bro. T. J. Saunders asked and obtained leave of absence until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The special committee on a blank form for annual ministerial reports offered a report, which, after being discussed at some length, was adopted as follows:

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference of the Pastoral Labors of

Rev.....

For the year beginning.....18.....and ending.....18.....

Names of Churches in charge.....
Number of Sermons preached.....
" Lectures and Addresses delivered.....
" Prayer Meetings held.....
" Conversions in pastoral charge.....
" Pastoral Visits paid.....
" Funeral Services performed.....
" Marriages solemnized.....
Amount of Salary received.....

Other Items.

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Bros. Thomas Parker, of Bethlehem, and W. H. Brinkley, of Cypress Chapel, obtained leave of absence until to-morrow morning.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. J. T. Kitchen to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Fraternal Messengers, who were appointed at the last annual session to visit sister Conferences, were called upon for their reports.

Rev. Dr. Wellons reported that he had attended the North Carolina Conference and had a very pleasant trip.

Rev. M. B. Barrett stated that he had not been able to attend the North Carolina Conference. On motion, he was excused.

Rev. J. T. Whitley reported that he had attended the Virginia Valley Conference, and was delighted with his trip.

Rev. Dr. Wellons had not been able to attend the Deep River Valley Conference. He was excused.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the Conference then went into the election of fraternal messengers to other Conferences. The following appointments were made:

To the North Carolina Conference: Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. E. W. Beale, Bro. J. T. Nurney.

To the Virginia Valley Conference: Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., Rev. J. Pressley Barrett.

On motion, Rev. J. T. Whitley and Rev. Dr. Wellons were appointed to attend the next session of the Colored Christian Conference of Eastern Virginia and give such aid as they may be able to render.

On motion, it was decided that the Secretary shall publish

the proceedings of this Conference in the Christian Annual for 1875.

Bro. Walter H. Eley, of Cypress, asked and obtained leave of absence until to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

The roll of Churches was called, and the delegates signified how many copies of the Christian Annual each Church would take at 15 cents a copy.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, the Conference went into the election of a Standing Treasurer. Col. Alexander Savage, of Norfolk, was elected to that office.

On motion, the report of the committee on Education was made the special order for Friday 10½ o'clock; and 10½ A. M. on Saturday was set apart for the report of the committee on Home Missions.

The following resolution, offered by Revs. J. T. Whitley and C. A. Apple, was adopted:

Resolved, That each Church in the Conference be requested to take up a collection at the first regular service in October every year, or at such other time as may be convenient, the amounts collected to be forwarded to the Treasurer, to be devoted to defraying the incidental expenses of Conference.

On motion, the Conference adjourned until to-morrow. Prayer was offered by Rev. C. J. Rolston, and the benediction was pronounced by the President.

———o———

[Third Day.]

Nov. 5, 1875.

The President called the Conference to order and a short time was spent in devotional exercises.

The Secretary called the roll of members and read the minutes of yesterday's session. The minutes were approved.

Rev. R. H. Holland arrived and reported his presence, as did also Bro. T. J. Clements, a delegate from Antioch. These brethren were called upon for their excuses for tardiness. Excuses were rendered and accepted.

The committee on Education reported in part as follows:

REPORT.

The committee on Education would report first the condition of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, the only institution of learning under the auspices of this Conference.

There has been expended on the lot, house, furniture, &c., of the Institute the sum of $4811,87, and we have received from all sources the sum of $4001,87, leaving a debt of $810 still unpaid, for which W. B. Wellons, W. S. Riddick, D. B. Dunbar, Tho. J. Kilby. Joseph King, Mrs. Sarah B. Eley and Jno. H. Wright, are bound in bank on a note now overdue. We have subscriptions enough on our books received at the Hebron Conference in 1872, to meet the indebtedness, but the pressure in money matters has made some unable to pay their subscriptions, and we fear some have become indifferent, and we scarcely hope to collect more than one-fourth of the amount there pledged, even under favorable circumstances.

The property is owned by a Joint Stock Company, who with a few exceptions

are members of the Christian Church or are connected with some Christian congregation. Certificates of stock have not been delivered, but are being made ready for delivery in a few days. Of the $100 subscribed at the last Conference toward liquidating the debt $75 remains uncollected. The note due in Bank can run longer if curtailed and the discount paid every 60 days. But those on the note are not willing to curtail and pay the discount out of their own pockets, and ask to be relieved. We would be glad to have the Conference suggest some plan for their relief at once.

It is known to the Conference that the different schools in the Institute up to the end of the last term have been conducted by individuals in their own interest, they paying the stockholders rent for the use of the building in free tuition to young men preparing for the ministry, under the care of this Conference.

At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Chairman of this Committee, was elected President of the Institute, and the whole control of the School was placed in his hands, empowering him to select his own teachers, and act as agent in the collection of unpaid subscriptions, and take such steps as he might deem proper to pay the debt due on the grounds and building. He comes to this body in his agency and asks assistance and advice in his agency.

As soon as convenient after his election to the Presidency of the Institute, he associated with him Professors Joseph King and Jno. H. Wright, and jointly we have employed other teachers, both in the literary and music departments, and the school is now being conducted under one head, and all its business is jointly controlled by the President and Professors King and Wright.

The wisdom of the step taken by the Trustees is shown in the largely increased patronage of the school, notwithstanding the increased financial pressure in the country. About 90 students have entered during the present term, and we think that at least the number of 100 will be reached by the end of the present or the commencement of the second half session. The interest in the school has been greatly increased in Suffolk and the surrounding country, and the school is acquiring a character abroad which it never before possessed.

This school is conducted on principles entirely unsectarian. Two-thirds of the present number of students belong to families connected with our Christian congregations, and the other one-third come to us from families connected with four other denominations of christians. Conducted as it is entirely free from sectarian or denominational teachings or influence, we can safely invite the patronage of all denominations, and parents and guardians in other denominations may feel fully assured that not one word will be heard by any of their children in school or in any of its public exercises calculated to influence them to lesser love for the church in which they have been raised. The committee can assure all liberal christians, that the school shall continue to preserve its present character in this particular.

We ask that every member of this body shall co-operate with the Board of Trustees, the President and Faculty of the School, in an earnest endeavor to enlarge the number of students, and increase an interest in it in every particular. We want to see the sympathies of the Christians and all the people of this part of the State and country.

W. B. WELLONS,
C. A. APPLE,
J. N. MANNING,
J. T. WHITLEY,
Committee.

The report was discussed by Col. A. Savage, Rev. E. W. Beale and Rev. Dr. Wellons.

Pending the discussion, the hour for recess arrived. On motion of Col. A. Savage, the recess was postponed for thirty minutes.

On motion, it was decided to endeavor to obtain the pledges of twenty persons to subscribe for a sufficient amount of stock of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute to pay the remainder, after such amounts are collected from the subscriptions now due as

the agent may be able to collect. An effort was made and seven names obtained. The subscription list was left open for future additions.

A recess was then taken, during which Rev. J. T. Kitchen preached an earnest sermon from Rom. 8 : 35.—"*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*"

[Afternoon Session.]

Business was resumed. The report on Education, laid over from the morning session, was taken up. After several other names had been added to the list of stockholders, the matter was committed to Rev. W. B. Wellons and Rev. E. W. Beale, to obtain farther subscriptions.

The report was then adopted.

The committee on Education offered the following additional

REPORT.

We have further to report that Bros. Harrison H. Butler, Nathan B. Munford, and Charles W. Cain, members of the Ministerial Class, have appeared before us, and have been examined as to their progress in literary study and other preparation for the work upon which they desire to enter. After a very careful and impartial consideration of all the circumstances, we are of the opinion that, although it might seem in the mind of some desirable to license one or two of these brethren as probationers, yet it is not best to do so at present, their attainments falling too far below the standard to which we should approximate as nearly as possible. Still we think these brethren may be, to a certain extent, useful in a public capacity, and recommend that they be encouraged and advised to exercise their gifts under the authority and by the advice of the Board of Education. And we further recommend that they be continued at school, and that Conference, if possible, devise some means to assist them in bearing their expenses.

W. B. WELLONS,
J. N. MANNING,
C. A. APPLE,
J. T. WHITLEY,
Committee.

After a full discussion, participated in by Col. A. Savage, Rev. Dr. Wellons, Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. E. W. Beale and Rev. J. T. Whitley, the report was adopted.

A subscription was then taken up for the education of these young brethren, which resulted in pledges of money and provisions to the amount of $306,50.

Bros. M. L. Watkins and B. C. Roberts of Antioch, J. R. Hinton of Damascus, and J. T. Nurney of Suffolk, were granted leave of absence for the remainder of the Conference session.

The committee on Religious Exercises made the following announcements for preaching: 12 o'clock Saturday, Rev. M. B. Barrett; 11 A. M. Sunday, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D.; Sunday afternoon, Rev. J. T. Whitley.

The Conference adjourned until to-morrow. Benediction by Rev. C. A. Apple.

[Fourth Day.]

Nov. 6, 1875.

Conference met, and was called to order by the President.

The congregation engaged in singing, after which prayer was offered by Rev. R. H. Holland.

The roll of members was called, and the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The committee on Home Missions offered the following

REPORT.

The committee on Home Missions submit the following: In consultation with each other and delegates from the several Churches composing this Conference, we ascertain that the following arrangements for pastoral service for the year have been perfected:

Antioch—Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Barretts, Mt. Carmel and Ivor—Rev. M. B. Barrett.

Berea (Nansemond), Cypress, Oakland and Damascus—Rev. E. W. Beale.

Berea (Norfolk co.,) and Sharon—Rev. R. C. Tuck.

Hebron and Liberty Spring—Rev. C. J. Rolston.

Holy Neck—Rev. C. A. Apple.

Liberty and [probably] Union—Rev. J. T. Kitchen.

Johnson's Grove and Spring Hill—Rev. J. P. Barrett.

Suffolk and Bethlehem—Rev. W. B. Wellons.

Elders Ro. Rawls, S. S. Barrett, R. H. Holland, J. N. Manning and R. H. Costen, have received no regular appointments.

We respectfully suggest that the Churches at Providence and Jerusalem, which we learn are without regular Pastors, be visited by the presiding officer of this body, (who is also a member of this committee,) and in conference with the members of these churches, devise such means as will best secure the interest and prosperity of said churches.

We recommend the suspension of the Norfolk Mission until the country is relieved of the present financial pressure, and that Rev. J. N. Manning, in charge, be requested to make a report, as agent for the collection of funds to erect a house of worship in the city.

A. SAVAGE,
W. B. WELLONS,
H. T. WEST,
T. J. CLEMENTS,
Committee.

The report was discussed by Col. A. Savage, Rev. E. W. Beale, Bro. Jno. Oberry, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett and Rev. Dr. Wellons, after which it was unanimously adopted.

In accordance with the report just adopted, Rev. J. N. Manning was called upon for a report of his transaction in connection with the Norfolk Mission.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered the following statement of amounts received for that Mission, and the items of expenditure:

STATEMENT.

Collections for Norfolk Church from Scioptican exhibitions—1872—

From Churchland,	$26,40
Liberty $17, Spring Hill $29,	46,00
Bethlehem $11,36, Antioch $19,	30,36
Mt. Carmel $5,75, Windsor $7,	12,75
Cypress $9, Holy Neck $8,	17,00
Franklin $7,25, Weldon $4,	11,25
Suffolk $11, Berea (Norfolk,) $14,50,	25,50
Berea (Nansemond,)	27,00
Total from above source,	$196,26

Expenses:

To use of Scioptican and chemicals,	$25,50	
" Slides and chromotropes	43,00	
Travelling expenses	33,25	
Printing	5,00	
Total expenses,	$106,75——	$106,75
Balance in hand from above source,		$89,51
By contributions from Dr. R. C. Everett,		25,00
Col. Wm. Eley,		10,00
Alex. Eley,		5,00
T. H. Hines,		12,04
T. B. Rowland,		10,00
J. H. Core,		5,00
Ivor Church,		73
Box at Antioch,		3,83
Box at S. J. & Lee's store,		1,20
Dr. O. H. Baird,		5,00
B. B. Harris,		5,00
G. W. Eley,		5,00
Col. Tait,		10,00
Total from all sources,		$187,31

To amt's paid E. W. Moore, int. on lot, $234.

Am't paid out over amount received, $46,69.

J. N. MANNING.

After some remarks by Rev. J. N. Manning, the report was adopted.

A recess was then taken for public service. During the recess Rev. M. Barrett preached an impressive discourse from the one word : "*Jesus.*"

[Afternoon Session.]

The President called the body to order.

The Executive Committee presented the following report, which was adopted :

REPORT.

The Executive Committee would report that no business of importance has claimed their attention this year. Respectfully submitted,

W. B. WELLONS, Chairman.

Rev. M. B. Barrett, from the committee on Church Records, offered the following report, which was agreed to:

REPORT.

We the committee appointed to examine the Records of the various Churches composing this Conference, beg leave to report that the following Churches have sent their Records: Antioch, Barrett's, Berea (Nansemond,) Cypress, Damascus, Holy Neck, Ivor, Liberty Spring, Johnson's Grove, Mt. Carmel, Spring Hill, and Suffolk. We have examined them carefully, and find most of them kept neatly and correctly, while others are deficient in some particulars.

We would respectfully call the attention of Church Secretaries to the great importance of keeping their records properly in every particular, but especially the roll of members.

The following Churches failed to send their Records: Providence, Jerusalem, Berea (Norfolk,) Liberty, Sharon, Bethlehem and Union. These Churches have failed to comply with the law upon this subject as laid down in our Declaration of Principles, but we would not censure them, hoping they will do better in the future.

M. B. BARRETT,
O. H. BAIRD,
J. T. NURNEY. } Commt'e.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. R. C. Tuck, of the North Carolina Conference, being present, was invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member.

The following additional report was offered by the Committee on Education:

REPORT.

We, your committee on Education, beg leave, in addition to our former report, to offer the following:

Bro. Charles P. Norfleet, a member of the Christian Church at Bethlehem, in this Conference, and in good standing, has appeared before us as an applicant for membership in the ministerial class. Bro. Norfleet had previously been in consultation with members of the committee, who were inclined to look favorably upon his application, and he has already entered the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, with a view to preparation for his work. Bro. Norfleet asks no immediate aid from Conference. We recommend his regular admission to the ministerial class.

Bros. John T. Kitchen and J. P. Barrett, who have been preaching as probationers for several years, appeared before us, as applicants for ordination to the office of Elder. After a careful examination of these brethren as to their various qualifications, we have decided that it is best, under all the circumstances, to advance them to this office.

We recommend that Conference appoint a Presbytery of Ordination to set apart these brethren to the order and office of Elders in the Christian Church; and that this ceremony take place to-morrow morning, and that the President of Conference be appointed a member of the Ordaining Presbytery.

C. A. APPLE, Chrm'n, *pro tem.*

The report was unanimously adopted.

The following elders were appointed a Presbytery of Ordination to set apart Bros. Kitchen and Barrett to the office of elder: W. B. Wellons, D.D., C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, J. T. Whitley.

Rev. R. H. Holland, from the Standing Committee on Tem-

perance, offered the subjoined report, which, after brief addresses by Rev. Dr. Wellons and Rev. E. W. Beale, was agreed to:

REPORT.

Your committee appointed to report on Temperance, beg leave to offer the following:

The subject of Temperance has been so frequently discussed and written upon, that we feel that the subject has almost been exhausted without much apparent reform. Yet, we are unwilling to discontinue our efforts in so good a cause—a cause so near akin to religion itself. Intemperance is a great evil, which no true christian can deny; and it behooves us as christians to give "line upon line and precept upon precept," to make effort after effort till the black tide of evil shall be rolled back and the glorious banner of Temperance shall be unfurled in every community, and the church itself come forth as it were from the wilderness, robed in the garments of spotless purity leaning upon the arm of the Beloved, "living soberly, righteously and godly in the world." For much depends upon christian example for the promotion of this great reform and the utter destruction of this hydraheaded monster. We therefore recommend the following resolution, as expressive of the sentiment of this body:

Resolved, As a church, that we will in the future, especially by christian example and holy living, use our best efforts to break down this monster evil, and build up the kingdom of Christ.

R. H. HOLLAND,
E. W. BEALE,
J. T. KITCHEN,
} Commt'e.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, from the Special Committee on Periodicals, reported as follows:

REPORT

We, the special committee on Periodicals, report: Our periodical literature is making gradual advances, and in the face of many and stern difficulties is gaining victories which are of inestimable value to our cause, and an honor to the managers.

The Christian Sun, edited and published by Rev. Dr. Wellons, at Suffolk, Va., with Revs. W. C. McCune, Thos. J. Melish, and R. L. Abernethy, as contributing editors, is meeting the wants of our Church most fully, and therefore is entitled to our hearty approval and support. We suggest that our pastors and such laymen as may feel competent, contribute short, pithy articles to this paper, and that they urge their respective congregations to read it with care, that they may be fully informed of our Church work—its enterprises, &c. We also commend to each of our Churches the propriety of appointing a standing committee to endeavor to put the paper in every family of the Church.

The Little Christian, published by Dr. Wellons and edited by Rev. J. T. Whitley, is all we could ask of its editor and publisher. It is now, in a great measure, the life of our Sunday Schools, and fills a vacancy which had existed previous to its *debut*, from the earliest organization of our Church. To let this paper die, or even suffer for a want of our patronage, is to cripple not only our Sunday School work, but the future usefulness and prosperity of our Church at large. It calls loudly and justly upon us for our support now.

The Christian Unity, published at Suffolk, Va., and Cincinnati, Ohio, and edited by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., Revs. Thos. J. Melish and W. C. McCune, is an able and faithful exponent of our position on Christian Union, and as such deserves our approval and earnest support.

We are glad to note that the managers of the *Sun* and *Unity* have recently introduced a portrait gallery in each of these papers.

Respectfully,

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
ALEX. SAVAGE,
BENJ. C. ROBERTS,
} Commt'e.

The report was discussed briefly by Rev. Dr. Wellons and the chairman of the committee, after which it was adopted.

Rev. C. A. Apple offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

RESOLVED, That the hearty and most sincere thanks of this body be and are hereby tendered :

1. To the brethren and friends about Berea, for their extremely kind and hospitable treatment of the members of this Conference.

2. To Rev. E. W. Beale, pastor at Berea, for the earnest welcome and unwearied attention which he has shown us.

3. To the ladies of the Church, who have made the house elegant and beautiful with charming flowers and evergreens, thereby delighting our eyes and cheering our hearts.

Reports were handed in and read from the churches at Spring Hill, Berea (Norfolk,) and Oakland.

Rev. Dr. Wellons' ministerial report was read.

The President appointed the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year :

On Sunday Schools: Rev. J. T. Whitley, H. T. West and D. B. Dunbar.

On Temperance: Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Richard Copeland, A. M. Eley.

On Home Missions: Col. A. Savage, Thomas J. Clements, I. W. Duck, John Oberry. [The Conference added the name of Rev. Dr. Wellons.]

On Education: Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. E. W. Beale. [On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. Dr. Wellons was placed on this committee as Chm'n.]

Executive Committee: Rev. R. H. Holland, Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. J. T. Kitchen.

After some announcements concerning to-morrow's services, a motion to adjourn *sine die* prevailed.

The President made a few closing remarks and led the body in prayer ; the congregation sang "Shall we meet in Heaven above?" the benediction was pronounced, and the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference stood adjourned to meet at the Christian Church in Suffolk, on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in November, 1876, at 11 o'clock A. M.

W. B. WELLONS, *President.*

J. T. WHITLEY, *Sect'y.*

J. P. BARRETT, *Ass't Sect'y.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY-DELEGATES.	Members reported last session.	Received since.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole number of communicants	Sunday Schools.	Connected with Sunday Schools.	Am't Paid Pastor.	To educate young Preachers.	For other purposes.	Whole amount.	Value of Church Property.
Antioch,	J. T. Whitley,	M. L. Watkins, T. J. Clements, A. M. Eley, B. C. Roberts,	548	24	5	2	12	2	551	1	119	$350	$25	$25	$400,00	$2,000,00
Barrett's,	M. B. Barrett,	B. B. Harris,	171	13			1	1	182	1	64	100		25	125,00	1,000,00
Bethlehem,	W. B. Wellons,	R Copelnad, T Parker, C P Norfleet,	196	52	1		5	4	238	1	69	150	10		160,00	500,00
Berea, Nans'd,	E. W. Beale,	Alex. Savage, W. J. Lee,	72	13		1	2		82	1	61	167	105	56	328,00	1,400,00
Berea, Norfolk,	R. C. Tuck,	No delegate present,	82		3			4	76	1						2,000,00
Cypress,	E. W. Beale,	J. E. Riddick, W. H. Eley, W. H. Brinkley,	335	6	7	5	5		324	1	47	300	15	27	342,00	1,700,00
Damascus,	E. W. Beale,	Prentice Duke, J. R. Hinton,	153	25					178	1	47	150	10	3	163,00	1,500,00
Hebron,	C. J. Rolston,	J. H. Daughtrey, J. W. Ballard,	121	2					123	1		100			100,00	1,000,00
Holy Neck,	C. A. Apple,	J. Oberry, P. H. Lee, J. Norfleet,	401	4	2	3	1	1	390	1	137	200	20	15	235,00	1,500,00
Ivor,	C. J. Rolston,	D. N. Rawls, J. W Brittle,	23	9					32	1		75	5		80,00	1,000,00
Jerusalem,	No pastor,	No delegate present,	33						25							
Johnson'sGr've	J. P. Barrett,	W. T. Davis, John Wellons,	61	1	1	1		2	58	1	55	60		75	135,00	1,000,00
Liberty,	J. T. Kitchen,	No delegate present,	47						47	1	36	140		25	165,00	1,000,00
Liberty Spring,	C. J. Rolston,	J. W. Lassiter, R. F. Rogers,	90	13					103	1	78	100	5	59½	164,50	1,000,00
Mt. Carmel,	M. B. Barrett,	J. E. T. Joyner, T. M. Murray,	139	7			1	5	130	1	80	100	10		110,00	1,200,00
Oakland,	E. W. Beale,	T J. Saunders, J. W. Stone,	61	1	1		1		59	1	45	125	10		135,00	1,000,00
Providence,	R. C. Tuck,	No delegate present,	69						69	1						1,500,00
Sharon,	R. C. Tuck,	No delegate present,	36	2			1		37	1	82	75		8	83,00	400,00
Spring Hill,	J. T. Whitley,	H. T. West, O. H. Baird,	157	7		2	1	3	158	2	99	225	15	12	252,00	1,200,00
Suffolk,	W. B. Wellons,	J. T. Nurney, Jacob Lawshe,	163	15	3	2		5	167	1	155	700	20	250	970,00	3,000,00
Union,	C. J. Rolston,	J. Cobb, G. W. Cobb,	72	4		1	3	1	71	1	35	75			75,00	1,000,00
			3030	198	23	17	33	28	3120	21	1209	3,192	250	581½	3,822,50	25,900,00

MINUTES

OF THE

Valley Virginia Christian Conference.

LINVILLE CHURCH, ROCKINGHAM CO., VA., }
September 2nd, 1875. }

The VALLEY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled here to-day in its seventh annual session, and was called to order by Bro. Jesse Burkholder, President of last session.

The standing Secretary called the roll and the following ministers and lay-delegates were reported present:

ELDERS.—Geo. W. Woods, C. J. Rolston.

LICENTIATE.—J. C. Williams.

LAY-DELEGATES.—*Antioch*—D. F. Lineweaver, C. A. Henton. *Linville*—A. R. Rhineheart, C. P. Ragan. *Locust Grove*—Moses Dodson. *Soliloquy*—Geo. A. Stilwell. *Dayton*—— *Plains*—— *Bethlehem*—— *Valley*——

A quorum being present, Bro. Burkholder, President of the last session, read the second chapter of Gal., and the congregation joined in singing the 312th hymn, after which the President called on the Rev. C. J. Rolston to lead the body in prayer.

The President then announced that the election of officers for the ensuing session was in order; whereupon Bro. Jesse Burkholder was re-elected President. Bro. Burkholder on taking the chair thanked Conference for their renewal of confidence in him as President, and pledged that he would discharge the responsible duty reposed in him to the best of his ability.

On motion of Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, the Secretary was granted the privilege of selecting his own assistant.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, the Conference invited to seats as deliberative members, Rev. J. T. Whitley of the Eastern Virginia Conference, and Rev. W. T. Walker of the N. C. Conference. These brethren accepted the invitation in a few appropriate remarks.

The President then announced the next thing in order was the delivery of the annual address.

The Rev. C. J. Rolston, Chairman of the Executive Committee stated to Conference that at the last session the selection of some one to deliver the annual address had been referred to them, and they had requested the Rev. W. T. Walker of N. C. to perform that duty. Bro. Walker preached an earnest dis-

course from the words found in the Book Zachariah 4 : 10, "*For who hath despised the day of small things.*"

Immediately thereafter Conference resumed business.

On motion of Bro. C. A. Henton, the following order of meetings and adjournments was adopted for the present session: meet at 10 o'clock A. M., adjourn 12 M. for preaching and dinner; meet at 1½ P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, Conference adjourned for dinner.

[Afternoon Session.]

The labors of Conference were resumed.

The Rev. C. J. Rolston offered the following preamble and resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The Rev. W. T. Walker, of N. C., consented, through invitation, to prepare and deliver the annual sermon before this body,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due and hereby tendered to him for the very able and instructive sermon delivered by him at the opening of the present session, and that a copy be requested of him for publication, by consent of the editor, in the *Christian Sun*.

On motion, the Chair appointed the following a committee on religious exercise: Rev. W. T. Walker, C. A. Henton and D. F. Lineweaver.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, the Chair appointed the following members a special committee on Periodicals: Revs. C. J. Rolston, Geo. W. Woods and J. C. Williams.

On motion of Bro. C. A. Henton, a committee to examine the records of the local Churches was appointed, consisting of Bros. C. A. Henton, D. F. Lineweaver and Rev. J. C. Williams.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, to-morrow (Friday) 10½ o'clock was set apart for the reading of the reports of the Churches.

The President then called for the report on Sabbath Schools. After some consideration the President added the name of Bro. Dodson to the committee on Sabbath Schools. The committee then submitted the following

REPORT.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools would report that this great and noble work is steadily gaining ground. We regard the Sabbath School as standing second to the Church of Christ, to Christianize the youth of our land. We believe it the duty of every Christian to pray and work for the advancement of the cause.

We are sorry to know that our Sabbath School Convention was a failure. However, so far as we have learned Sabbath Schools have been carried on in all the Churches within the bounds of our Conference.

We would recommend the *Little Christian*, edited by the Rev. J. T. Whitley, and published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., at Suffolk, Va.

Respectfully submitted, D. F. LINEWEAVER, Ch'n.

The Rev. C. J. Rolston moved the adoption of the report. Earnest remarks were made by Revs. J. T. Whitley, W. T. Walker, C. J. Rolston, G. W. Woods and Bro. D. F. Lineweaver.

The committee on religious exercises then reported the Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach this evening at 7 o'clock P. M., and the Rev. Geo. W. Woods to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Bro. C. A. Henton, Conference adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

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[Second Day.]

Sept. 3, 1875.

Conference met this morning and was called to order by the President, who read the 508th hymn and the congregation joined in singing, after which the President called on the Rev. Geo. W. Woods to lead the body in prayer.

The hour having arrived for the reading of the Church Reports, Reports from the following Churches were read: Antioch, Linville and Locust Grove.

The President then called for Ministerial Reports. The following were read: Revs. G. W. Woods, J. A. Hardin and C. J. Rolston. Rev. J. C. Williams asked indulgence on his report until the afternoon session, which was granted.

Conference then took a recess, and an earnest sermon was delivered by Rev. Geo. W. Woods, from John 6: 67 and 68 verses: "*Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.*"

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[Afternoon Session.]

Conference resumed its business at the appointed hour, with the President in the Chair.

The special committee on Periodicals offered the following

REPORT.

We, your special committee on Periodicals, would earnestly endorse the periodical press as an able instrument in the propagation of truth. No religious organization can afford to dispense with the help of this valuable ally in the defense of its principles and the indoctrination of its members. We are glad to know that our denominational wants in this particular are fully supplied by papers published in Suffolk, Va., by our honored brother Rev. Dr. Wellons.

The Christian Sun is an able exponent and vigilant defender of our denominational principles, and we deem its extensive circulation of the highest importance. Every family in the Churches composing this body ought to be supplied with this able paper, and we hope ere long to know that this desirable result has been achieved.

The Little Christian, edited by Rev. J. T. Whitley, is a semi-monthly paper, intended for the benefit of Sunday School teachers and scholars. Two pages are filled with interesting and wholesome matter for children, one page is occupied with editorial articles and one page is devoted to simple exposition of the International Bible

Lessons. We cordially commend this paper to all our Schools and families, and especially urge that the International Lessons published therein be adopted for study in every School.

The Christian Unity, is a new monthly paper devoted to the interests of Christian Union. It is only one dollar a year, and ought to be widely circulated.

Brethren, let us rally to the support of our periodicals, and thus not only encourage the editors and publishers in their arduous and self-denying labors, but greatly promote our own prosperity by disseminating christian knowledge.

Respectfully submitted, C. J. ROLSTON, Ch'n.

Bro. C. A. Henton moved the adoption of the report. Rev. J. T. Whitley then took the floor and earnestly urged the claims of the Periodicals published by our Church; he was followed in earnest remarks by the Revs. C. J. Rolston, W. T. Walker, the President, Bro. C. A. Henton and Rev. Geo. W. Woods. After which the report was unanimously adopted.

The committee on Church Records then submitted the following

REPORT.

Your committee on Church Records would submit the following report: That we have examined the records from Antioch, Linville, Soliloquy and Locust Grove, and find some improvement over last year.

We would recommend that the pastors of the different Churches spare more time in aiding the Secretaries. We would recommend further that more attention be given to spelling and the rules of Grammar.

No records were handed in from the Valley, Dayton, Plains and Bethlehem.

Respectfully submitted, C. A. HENTON, Ch'n.

After a few remarks from various members, the report was adopted.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, Conference then went into the election of a place to hold the next annual session. Antioch and Bethlehem were put in nomination. The vote was taken, which resulted in the choice of Antioch. The Rev. C. J. Rolston moved to reconsider the matter. Bethlehem was withdrawn, and Soliloquy substituted in its place. The vote was then taken which resulted in the choice of Soliloquy.

The Ministerial Report of Rev. J. C. Williams was then read.

The Rev. J. C. Williams, from the standing committee on Temperance, handed in the following

REPORT.

Your committee on Temperance, beg leave to report, that, notwithstanding the means already employed by the Church to abate the evils arising from the use of intoxicating liquors, in our opinion there remains much more to be done. We recommend that in view of the fact that the Church is almost, if not entirely, free from its use as a beverage and traffic, that we resolve henceforth to labor more earnestly to establish sobriety. Let us go out into the highways and hedges and pluck, as it were, roses from thistles, for thus sayeth the Lord "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. C. WILLIAMS, Ch'n.

After earnest remarks by Revs. C. J. Rolston, J. T. Whitley and Wm. T. Walker, the report was adopted.

The committee on Religious Exercises then announced the Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach this evening at 7 o'clock, and the Rev. C. J. Rolston to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, Conference adjourned. Prayer by Bro. Geo. Stilwell.

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[Third Day.]

Sept. 4, 1875.

Conference covened. The President in the Chair. Religious Exercise by the Rev. J. C. Williams.

The Rev. C. J. Rolston, chairman of the executive committee, reported his correspondence with the Rev. F. M. Cummings, of Yankee Ridge, Ohio, in regard to organizing Churches in that State on the platform of the Christian Church. As Mr. Cummings had withdrawn his application on account of giving in his adhesion to the Cincinnati Basis of Union, the matter was dismissed from Conference.

Conference then adjourned to meet at Soliloquy, on Thursday before the first Sunday in September, 1876.

D. F. LINEWEAVER, *President.*

C. J. ROLSTON, *Sec't'y.*

MINUTES

OF THE

DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

SHILOH, RANDOLPH CO., N. C., }
October 7th, 1875. }

The DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE convened here to-day at the appointed hour, in its 11th annual session. The house was called to order by Rev. A. S. Nelson, the former President. Religious exercises by the President.

By order of the President the names of ministers were enrolled.

ELDERS.—*Present:* A. S. Nelson, J. S. Lawrence, W. M. Craven, W. R. Brown, W. W. Lawrence, W. G. Brady and H. A. Albright. *Absent:* Joseph Albright and J. B. Ausley.

LICENTIATES.—*Present:* J. A. Scott and Peter P. Humble. *Absent:* D. B. McLeod.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.—*Pleasant Grove*—James Brady, Silas L. Moffitt, A. D. Leonard, Lewis Brady, A. L. Needham, Wyatt Brady and W. A. C. Brady. *Park's Cross Roads*—Jas. Stout, Oliver Vestal and George Cagle. *Shiloh*—Thos. M. Brady, W. H. Yow, W. T. Fox and J. E. Albright. *Pleasant Ridge*—William Cox, A. J. Yow, A. J. Williams and John M. Stinson. *Shady Grove*—E. C. Martin, G. W. McLeod and Jacob Buncannon. *New Providence*—Auguish Britt and C. D. Williamson. *New Center*—A. E. Kenedy, James Latham and Thos. F. Cole. *Brown's Chapel*—Enoch Freeman and Joseph Craven. *Salem*—Not represented. *Cool Springs*—Reuben Freeman. *Union Grove*—James Bird, Adam Brown and B. S. Scott. *Oldham Grove*—Not represented.

A quorum being found present, the President stated that the first business in order is the selection of suitable officers to preside during this session.

On motion, the officers were elected by acclamation. Rev. A. S. Nelson was elected President, Brother Oliver Vestal Vice-President, and Rev. W. R. Brown Assistant Secretary.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, Conference suspended business to hear the annual address to be delivered by Rev. H. A. Albright. The sermon was delivered from Matthew 16 : 18, which was listened to with marked attention.

On motion, Rev. W. G. Brady was appointed to fill a vacancy in the committee on Sabbath Schools.

On motion, Bro. George Cagle was appointed to fill a vacancy in the committee on Temperance.

On motion, Bro. Oliver Vestal was added to the committee on Home Missions.

On motion, Revs. A. S. Nelson, W. M. Craven, H. A. Albright, and Bros. James Stout and E. C. Martin were added to committee on Education.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, Conference is to meet at 9 o'clock A. M., adjourn for refreshments at 11½ o'clock A. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion, the Pastor and delegates from Shiloh were appointed a committee on Religious Exercises during Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, A. M. to-morrow.

Religious services by Rev. John S. Lawrence.

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[Second Day.]

Oct. 8, 1875.

Conference convened. The President presiding. Religious services by Rev. W. G. Brady.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved..

Rev. J. N. Farrell, fraternal messenger from the N. C. and Va. Christian Conference, having arrived, was, on motion, invited to a seat as a deliberative member. Bro. Farrell, after appropriate remarks, took his seat in Conference.

Joseph Craven, delegate from Browns' Chapel, and Reuben Freeman, delegate from Cool Springs, arrived and took their seats.

By permission, a lettter from Rev. D. A. Long, of Graham High School, was read by the Secretary.

The letter was, on motion, referred to the committee on Education.

The President appointed Bros. C. D. Williamson, Peter. P. Humble, and B. S. Scott, a committee on Statistics.

On motion, the time and place for holding the next session of this Conference were taken into consideration. Shady Grove and Browns' Chapel were put in nomination. After some consultation Shady Grove, Montgomery county, was selected, to commence on Thursday 12 o'clock, M. before the second Sabbath in October, 1876.

On motion, Conference adjourned till 1 o'clock., P. M. During adjournment Bro. Peter P. Humble preached an interesting sermon from Luke 20 : 36.

[Afternoon Session.]

Conference convened. The President presiding.

On motion, the letters from the various churches were handed in, and were read by the Secretary by order of the President. The news from the most of the Churches was encouraging.

Revs. W. R. Brown and W. G. Brady presented a petition from the weaker churches on the outskirts of Conference, asking for help or aid to employ a minister to preach for them. After considerable discussion the arrangement necessary to supply them with preaching was left with the committee on Home Missions.

On motion, it was made the duty of the committee on Home Missions to make a partial report to-morrow morning at 9 o'cl'k.

The committee on Temperance presented the following

REPORT.

Your committee on Temperance have long seen and earnestly deplored the great and manifold evils resulting from the use and traffic in intoxicating drinks as a beverage by christian people. No one evil has been so disastrous in its influence and effects, and consequently should receive a closer attention. We should try to keep the Church members as free from intemperate habits of all kinds as possible. The world is looking to the Church for an example in all enterprises of social improvement. Let her set an example which may be safely followed by all.

Your committee would urge upon the Sabbath Schools the great necessity of instilling into the minds of the pupils the principles of Temperance. Here a good work in this direction may be accomplished. Respectfully submitted,

W. W. LAWRENCE, Ch'n.

The above Report was received, and after considerable discussion by Rev. J. N. Farrell and others, the Report was referred back to the committee to consider some amendments which were suggested.

On motion, Conference adjourned until 9 o'clock, A. M. on to-morrow. Religious exercises by Rev. W. W. Lawrence.

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[Third Day.]

Oct. 9, 1875.

Conference assembled. The President presiding.

According to a motion yesterday evening, the committee on Home Missions made a partial report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

We, your committee on Home Missions, found all the churches in the bounds of Conference supplied with preaching, except Piney Grove and Salem. We were not able to get a minister to supply them. We recommend Conference to adopt some plan to furnish Piney Grove with a preacher this year, as we think that an important point.

During last Conference year the chairman has organized a new church at Mount Zion, Moore county, numbering nine members. Said church, through us, your committee, petitions to become a member of Conference.

Respectfully submitted, J. S. LAWRENCE, Ch'n.

Before the adoption of the above report, Rev. W. G. Brady stated some important facts concerning the Church at Salem.

On motion, Conference adjourned to re-assemble at 1 o'clock P. M. Preaching at the Arbor.

[AFTERNOON SESSION.]

Conference met. The President in the chair.

On motion of Bro. P. P. Humble, the ministers were called upon to make the annual Report of their labors. The ministers proceeded to make their Reports as follows:

MINISTERS' REPORTS.

W. R BROWN—Have preached at Shiloh, New Providence, Brown's Chapel, and Good Springs, regularly—attended six or seven protracted meetings, and several funerals—preached in all about 60 sermons.

JOHN S. LAWRENCE—Have preached at Park's Cross Roads, Shady Grove, and Mount Zion; held three protracted meetings, and aided in three others; preached in all 80 sermons.

W. W. LAWRENCE—Have had the pastoral charge of the church at New Center and Cool Springs; held a protracted meeting at each place, assisted in two others; had 25 conversions; received 35 members into the church; baptized 3; feel much encouraged.

W. M. CRAVEN—Have preached 33 sermons—assisted in Sabbath School at Pleasant Grove—married two couple.

W. G. BRADY—Attended regularly Pleasant Grove and Oldham's Grove—labored at other places—received 6 members into the church at Pleasant Grove.

P. P HUMBLE—Had the pastoral charge of the church at Union Grove and Pleasant Ridge—labored at various other points—preached in all 70 sermons.

H. A. ALBRIGHT—Preached at New Center and Clark's School House monthly—assisted in three protracted meetings—preached about 30 sermons.

On motion, it was made the duty of the Ministers when they make the annual report of their labors, to make a report of the amount received.

A motion was made to require the Secretaries of the various churches to send their church books up to the annual sessions of Conference for inspection. The motion was lost.

On motion, a fund was raised to have the minutes printed in the Annual.

The committee on Education submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee on Education beg leave to make the following report. We recommend Samuel H. Way and George W. Stout to your body as suitable persons for licensure, and ask you to license them for twelve months.

At present we have no High School in the bounds of our Conference, but we feel safe in saying that the High School at Graham, and the inducements offered by Bro. D. A. Long, meet our wants. Respectfully submitted,

W. R. BROWN, Ch'n.

The committee on Sabbath Schools presented the following

REPORT.

The Sabbath School cause is in progress in the bounds of our Conference. There

have been several schools in successful operation during the year, though some few of our churches are too negligent in this great enterprise, and need stiring up to the importance of more earnest effort in the Sabbath School work. The statistics of our Sabbath Schools as reported to your committee, are about 50 teachers with about 300 pupils.

We recommend the *Little Christian* as a very good Sabbath School paper. We truly hope that the members of this Conference will become more earnestly engaged in this glorious cause which is such a great auxilary to the spread of the truths of the gospel of Christ, and in rearing up the young in the way they should go.

Respectfully submitted. H. A. ALBRIGHT, Ch'n.

After some spirited remarks by several of the brethren the report was received and adopted.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the citizens of this vicinity who have so well entertained us during the sitting of Conference.

On motion, Bro. P. P. Humble was appointed to deliver the annual sermon or address at the opening of the next session of Conference.

Bro. John A. Scott and Rev. W. G. Brady were appointed to attend the N. C. and Va. Christian Conference in its next annual session as fraternal messengers from this Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at early candle light in night session.

[Night Session.]

Conference convened. The President presiding.

The committee on Home Missions submitted their report as below :

REPORT.

W. G. Brady to preach at Pleasant Grove, Salem and Oldham's Grove.

J. S. Lawrence—Park's Cross Roads, Providence, Shady Grove and Cool Springs.

W. R. Brown—Pleasant Ridge, Shiloh, Good Springs and Brown's Chapel.

W. W. Lawrence—New Center and Mount Zion.

H. A. Albright to assist at Pleasant Ridge and Shady Grove.

A. S. Nelson—Piney Grove.

W. M. Craven to assist at Pleasant Grove and New Center.

P. P. Humble—Union Grove, assisted by Bro. S. H. Way.

Respectfully submitted, J. S. LAWRENCE, Ch'n.

Adopted.

Rev. W. R. Brown asked for leave of absence, which was granted by the Chairman.

The Temperance report was presented in its original form. The following amendment to the report was offered by Rev. H. A. Albright, viz :

That Conferance makes it a duty binding upon the individual Churches, that when any of their members are known to be engaged in making or vending ardent spirits as a beverage, it shall be the duty of such church to deal with such member or members. If such Church fail to do so, it will be answerable to Conference.

The amendment was discussed in the affirmative by Bros. P. P. Humble, J. A. Scott. J. M. Stinson, and H. A. Albright,

and negatively by some of the brethren. The discussion was animating and of considerable length.

The report with the amendment was adopted, and according to a motion of Bro. P. P. Humble, the yeas and nays were recorded without debate; which stood yeas 18, nays 8.

On motion, the present executive committee was continued.

On Sabbath Schools—H. A. Albright, W. G. Brady and J. J. Allen.

On Temperance—W. W. Lawrence, S. H. Way and E. C. Martin.

By motion of Bro. J. M. Stinson, it was made the duty of the Secretary to prepare a blank letter to be appended to the minutes for the benefit of the Secretaries of the different Churches. [The letter prepared is the same as used by all the other Conferences, and will be furnished from the *Christian Sun* office.]

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet in its next annual session with the Church at Shady Grove, Montgomery county, N. C., on Thursday before the 2nd Sabbath in October, 1876.

Religious services conducted by the President. The "Old Ship of Zion" was sung with the spirit, and Conference closed by singing the first Doxology.

A. S. NELSON, *President.*
OLIVER VESTAL, *Vice-President.*
H. A. ALBRIGHT, *Secretary.*
W. R. BROWN, *Asst. Secretary.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Recieved.	Removed.	Withdrawn.	Expelled.	Died.	Present No. of Communicants.
Pleasant Grove	6	3		1	1	180
Shiloh	1					112
Pleasant Ridge	6	5		1		104
Parks' Cross Roads				1		67
Union Grove	8		1			70
Shady Grove					1	54
New Providence	1		1		1	46
Oldham's Grove						8
Brown's Chapel						31
Cool Springs			2			16
New Center	33			1	1	75
Mt. Zion						9
Total	55	8	4	4	4	772

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

POPE'S CHAPEL, FRANKLIN CO., N. C., November 19th, 1875.

The NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE began its fiftieth session here to-day. The pastor, Rev. J. W. Wellons, delivered a short address of welcome.

The standing Secretary called the roll, and the following ministers and lay-delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS.—S. Apple, A. Apple, A. G. Anderson, J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, W. G. Clements, D. A. Long, C. A. Boon, J. N. Farrell, J. W. Hatch, A. Iseley, P. W. Allen, M. L. Hurley.

LICENTIATES.—S. I. Ellis, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Pinnix, M. L. Winston.

LAY-DELEGATES.—J. F. O'Kelly, A. Moring, J. Winborn, Young Jones, Wiley J. Winston, M. C. Winston, W. D. Jones, J. H. Farrell, D. J. Bland, W. K. Martin, W. P. Fuller, W. H. Buntin, J. H. Winfree, D. B. Jones, J. C. Gunter, J. A. Gunter, N. M. Watson, A. C. Yarborough, M. A. McCauley, W. N. Pritchard, Austin Whitsitt, J. H. Horton, J. J. Jenkins, P. H. Apple, N. H. Johnson, H. Marshall, Wm. Lynch, Jas. Gilliam, Z. N. Apple, H. A. N. Apple, W. Pearce, L. D. Faulkner, A. A. Farmer, W. M. Coble, J. S. Ashby, R. Holt, K. F. Way, J. H. Fleming.

A quorum being present, religious services were conducted by Rev. S. Apple.

Rev. W. S. Long was chosen President, and Rev. Peter T. Klapp, Assistant Secretary.

Rev. D. A. Long resigned the office of standing Secretary, but on motion of Rev. A. Iseley, was re-elected and consented to serve.

On motion, the Rules of Order for the last Conference were read and adopted for this.

On motion of Bro. W. K. Martin, the President appointed the following committee on religious exercises: Rev. J. W. Wellons, and Bros. M. C. Winston and W. D. Jones.

Rev. A. Iseley offered the following:

RESOLVED, That Conference meet each day at 9½ o'clock A. M , adjourn at 12 M., meet at 1½ o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

Adopted.

The hour having arrived, Rev. A. Iseley delivered the annual sermon. It was an excellent discourse, and was delivered with Bro. Iseley's usual earnestness.

On motion of Bro. W. K. Martin, Conference adjourned. Religious services by Rev. J. N. Farrell.

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[SECOND DAY.]

Nov. 20, 1875.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President. Religious services by Rev. A. G. Anderson.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion of Rev. A. G. Anderson, Rev. Dr. Wellons, and Rev. E. W. Beale, Fraternal Messengers from the Eastern Va. Christian Conference, were invited to seats in the Conference as deliberative members. Dr. Wellons remarked that he had visited this Conference so often that he felt more like one at home than a Fraternal Messenger—As the President of the General Christian Convention, he offered a few words of counsel; he urged the members to make up their minds to remain until all the work of Conference was finished. Bro. Beale remarked that about half of his ministerial labor had been within the bounds of this Conference ; he alluded very touchingly to the pleasant reminiscences of bygone days.

The President of the Conference assured the Fraternal Messengers from the Eastern Virginia Conference that the members of this Conference fully reciprocate the kind feelings expressed by them.

The committee on religious exercises reported that Rev. J. N. Farrell would preach at 1½ o'clock, in the old house of worship.

On motion of Rev. W. G. Clements, the following resolution was adopted :

WHEREAS, The Church at Smyrna, Wake county, N. C., has disbanded and nearly all the members joined at other places,

RESOLVED, That the name be stricken from the roll of Churches.

The committee on Education then made the following partial

REPORT.

Your committee on Education ask leave to submit a partial report. We have examined Bros. Joseph W. Pinnix and Peter T. Klapp, in reference to their qualification to receive elders orders, and recommend them to this Conference for ordination. They come further well recommended by the Churches for which they have ministered.

W. S. LONG,
A. G. ANDERSON,
S. APPLE,
Committee.

On motion, the above partial report was adopted.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, the name of the church at Brown's Chapel was dropped from the roll.

The President appointed the following Ordaining Presbytery: Revs. A. G. Anderson, A. Iseley, S. Apple.

Bro. J. M. Davis then came forward and had his name enrolled.

On motion, the reports from the various Churches were called for and read.

The Secretary, in connection with Bros. W. K. Martin, L. R. Crocker and J. C. Fleming rendered excuses for tardiness. They were excused.

Rev. D. A. Long, from the standing committee on Sabbath Schools, offered the following

REPORT.

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to report that several new Schools have been organized within the bounds of this Conference within the past year.

We would recommend, 1st. That the Churches continue to elect the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools. 2nd. That all the ministers try to organize Schools in localities where we have no churches. 3d. That all the Schools be kept up through the winter, where it can be done without too great a sacrifice. 4th. That we encourage the adoption of the International Lessons published in the *Little Christian*. Respectfully submitted, D. A. LONG, Ch'n.

After remarks by Rev. D. A. Long, A. Moring, Rev. W. S. Long, Bros. M. Marshall, A. A. Farmer, Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. Dr. Wellons, and S. I. Ellis, the report was adopted.

[Afternoon Session.]

On motion of Rev. J. W. Wellons, Revs. H. H. Gibbons, a Fraternal Messenger from the M. E. Church, South, and J. H. Gilbreth, a Fraternal Messenger from the M. P. Church, were invited to seats as deliberative members. The President of the Conference introduced these brethren in due form. The Fraternal Messengers made short and appropriate addresses on taking their seats.

The Secretary read a fraternal letter from Rev. Mr. Harris of the M. P. Conference.

On motion of Rev. A. G. Anderson, the name of the President of the Conference was added to the Ordaining Presbytery.

The committee on religious exercises then reported Rev. Dr. Wellons to dedicate this house, to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M. Rev. D. A. Long to preach in this house in the afternoon. Rev. W. S. Long in the M. E. Church in Franklinton to-morrow night. Rev. P. T. Klapp to preach in the M. E. Church, South, in Franklinton to-night.

The hour of 1½ o'clock P. M. was set apart for the ordination

of the brethren recommended in the report of the committee on Education.

Bro. J. T. Ball then came forward, rendered his excuse for tardiness—was excused and his name recorded.

Rev. J. W. Wellons then gave an account of his visit to Newbern and the sale of the Christian Church in that place. Conference then appointed A. Apple, A. Moring and A. G. Anderson a committee to consider the matter reported by Rev. J. W. Wellons, and report to this Conference.

Rev. J. N. Farrell moved that Conference decide whether a local Church has the right to license a member to preach, and whether that right should extend beyond the Church of which he is a member. Pending the discussion a motion to make this the special order for Monday 10 o'clock A. M., was made.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. E. W. Beale.

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[Third Day.]

Nov. 22, 1875.

Conference met. The President in the Chair. Religious exercises by Rev. P. W. Allen. Proceedings of Saturday read and approved.

The special order of the day was taken up.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to take the matter into consideration and report to this Conference. Committee: Revs. D. A. Long, P. W. Allen and J. N. Farrell.

The letters from the Churches at Brandon's Chapel and O'Kelly's Chapel were read.

On motion, the reports from the ministers were called for. The following reported in writing: A. G. Anderson, W. S. Long, W. G. Clements, D. A. Long, C. A. Boon, P. W. Allen, W. W. Staley, M. L. Hurley, S. I. Ellis, J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Pinnix, M. L. Winston, S. Apple, D. T. Deanes, H. B. Hayes, J. W. Hatch.

Bro. A. C. Yarborough was excused.

The name of Bro. D. Bragg was enrolled as a delegate from the Church at Good Hope.

On motion, Rev. W. G. Clements, A. Moring and H. Marshall were appointed a committee on Church Records.

Rev. A. G. Anderson offered the following:

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of five to report a plan to Conference for the organization of a Missionary Society for this Conference.

Adopted.

The following were appointed the above committee: S. Apple, J. T. Ball, A. A. Farmer, P. W. Allen and J. W. Hatch.

The following were chosen Fraternal Messengers: To the M. E. Church South—Rev. D. A. Long. To the M. P. Conference—Revs. J. W. Wellons and M. L. Winston. To the Deep River (N. C.) Conference—Revs. W. S. Long, J. N. Farrell and M. L. Hurley. The following lay-delegates were also appointed Fraternal Messengers: To the M. P. Conference—W. K. Martin. To the E. Va. C. Conference—S. Apple, J. W. Wellons, W. K. Martin and D. A. Long. To the Valley Va. C. Conference—S. Apple, A. Apple and J. W. Pinnix.

On motion of Rev. J. W. Wellons, Rev. Moses J. Hunt, of the M. E. Church, South, was invited to a seat as a deliberative member.

On motion, the name of Rev. J. W. Wellons was added to the special committee on Home Missions.

On motion, Bro. J. T. Ball and Rev. W. G. Clements were chosen to attend the annual session of the colored Christian Conference.

On motion, Rev. W. W. Staley was excused from further attendance.

On motion, Rev. W. W. Staley was chosen to deliver the next annual sermon before this Conference.

A motion to publish the Rules of Order was then made, pending the discussion of which, the hour for refreshments arrived.

[Afternoon Session.]

President in the Chair.

The hour having arrived, Bros. P. T. Klapp and J. W. Pinnix were ordained.

The motion to have the Rules of Order printed, was then taken up and after some discussion was adopted.

The special committee made the following

REPORT.

The special committee appointed to consider the question whether a local Church within the bounds of our Conference has a right to license ministers, would state that we have considered our Form of Government, and would recommend that Conference answer the question in the negative.

D. A. LONG,
P. W. ALLEN,
Committee.

After remarks by Rev. D. A. Long, Bro. Ball and Rev. S. Apple, the report was adopted.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Hatch was appointed to fill the vacancy in the committee on Temperance.

On motion of Rev. A. Iseley, the following were appointed a committee on Periodicals: Rev. H. B. Hayes, Bros. W. K. Martin and H. Marshall.

Conference then went into the selection of a place for its next annual meeting. Salem Chapel, Forsythe county, N. C., was selected.

The Fraternal Messengers appointed at the last annual session of this Conference then reported.

The committee on Temperance submitted the following

REPORT.

Your committee on Temperance respectfully submit, That there is an increased interest upon the subject, but notwithstanding, there is yet a very great necessity for a deeper interest on a more decided stand against the evils of intemperance in the Church, as she suffers more by this sin than all others combined.

And we would recommend that the Churches composing this Conference prohibit the individual members of the same from making, buying or selling, as a beverage, any intoxicating liquors whatever.

J. N. FARRELL,
C. A. BOON,
J. W. HATCH,
Committee.

And after earnest remarks by Revs. J. N. Farrell, J. W. Pinnix and H. H. Gibbons, it was adopted.

The committee appointed to report a plan for the organization of a Missionary Society then reported, and their report was recommitted.

The committee appointed to consider the sale of the Church in Newbern then reported and their report was made the special order for to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Bro. W. K. Martin moved that Conference meet in its next annual session on Tuesday before the 3rd Sabbath in October, and after remarks by Bro. Marshall, Rev. A. G. Anderson, W. K. Martin, Revs. S. Apple, D. A. Long, A. Iseley, H. B. Hayes, Bro. Martin, by the unanimous consent of Conference, withdrew his motion.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious services by Rev. H. B. Hayes.

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[Fourth Day.]

Nov. 23, 1875.

Conference was called to order by the President. Religious exercises by Rev. C. A. Boon.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The special order of the day having arrived, the following report was then taken up:

REPORT.

We, your committee, to whom was committed the matter pertaining to the sale of the Christian Church in Newbern, and also as regards what disposition shall be made of the money arising therefrom, beg leave to make the following report, viz:

From the meagre proofs in the matter, pertaining to this difficult case, we confess that we are unable to make a report that is satisfactory to ourselves. We would recommend that Conference appoint a committee, whose duty it shall be to get legal

advice in the matter and take immediate action, and report to our next Conference.
A. APPLE, Ch'n.

After remarks by Rev. A. G. Anderson, Bro. W. T. Ball and Rev. J. W. Wellons, the report was adopted, and the following committee was appointed: Bro. J. M. Moring, Revs. D. A. Long and J. W. Wellons.

The committee on Church Records then submitted the following

REPORT.

We, the committee on Church Records, have had presented to us the following books, viz: Pleasant Hill, Chatham county, Mount Auburn, Shallow Well, Moore Union, Hanks' Chapel, New Providence, Christian Chapel, Oak Level, Hayes' Chapel, Salem Chapel, Damascus and Martha's Chapel, and find them tolerably well kept. We think some improvements are being made, though some few corrections might be made, which we will point out to the Secretary.

Most respectfully submitted,

W. G. CLEMENTS,
A. MORING,
H. MARSHALL,
Committee.

Adopted.

Letters were read from the Churches at Union Chapel (Va.), Reece's Chapel. Also letters from Revs. Christian Allen, R. C. Tuck and W. T. Walker.

On motion of W. K. Martin, it was decided to have the proceedings of this Conference published in the "Christian Annual. The roll of Churches was then called and responded through their delegates the number of copies they would take.

On motion, Bro. H Marshall was excused from further attendance during the present session of Conference.

The chairman of the committee on Religious Exercises then reported that Rev. D. A. Long would preach at 1 o'clock P. M.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the members of Conference repaired to the Grove for refreshments.

[Afternoon Session.]

On motion, the Executive Committee were allowed until the next annual session of this Conference to report.

The report of the special committee on a Home Missionary Society was then taken under consideration:

REPORT.

Constitution.

I. This Society shall be known by the name of the Missionary Society of the N. C. & Va. Christian Conference, and its funds shall be used to aid in missionary work in said Conference.

II. The officers of this Society shall be, a President and Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of five—of which committee, the President and Vice-President shall form a part.

III. It shall be the duty of the President to preside in all the meetings of the Society, and in case of his absence the Vice-President shall preside.

IV. The Secretary shall keep a faithful account of all the doings of the Society, recorded in a book provided for the purpose.

V. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the funds of the Society, after giving bond and security, and pay them out as directed by vote of the Society, or by vote of four-fifths of the Executive Board.

VI. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee, or Board, to credit all accounts of the Society, see that dues are collected, procure signatures to the constitution, and in every other laudible way exercise vigilance in promoting the interests of the Society.

VII. The Society shall hold the right of determining how and where its funds shall be applied, provided it be conformable to the object specified in Article 1.

VIII. Any person of good character, shall be entitled to membership, on subscribing to this Constitution and paying annually one dollar. Any one paying five dollars shall be a member for ten years, and any one paying ten dollars shall be a life member.

IX. The Society shall hold its meetings annually, and at the same place at which the N. C. & Va. Christian Conference shall meet, and on the second day of the session of said body.

X. The Executive Board shall meet upon the call of the President and Sec'ty.

XI. The officers of this Society shall be elected annually, and shall hold office until their successors shall be elected.

XII. This Constitution may be altered or amended at an annual meeting of the Society, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

SOL. APPLE,
J. T. BALL,
A. A. FARMER,
J. W. HATCH,
P. W. ALLEN,
J. W. WELLONS,
Committee.

After remarks by Revs. S. Apple, J. W. Pinnix, J. N. Farrell and S. I. Ellis, the report was unanimously approved.

On motion, Conference then adjourned for the purpose of organizing a Home Missionary Society.

ORGANIZATION OF HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Rev. W. S. Long was requested to preside, and Rev. D. A. Long acted as Secretary.

The names of the members of Conference were called first, and the congregation was appealed to with the following result:

Life Members $10.

Rev. Alfred Apple,	Rev. D. A. Long,	T. J. Bland,
Rev. C. A. Boon,	Rev. John W. Hatch,	John T. Ball.

Rev. M. L. Hurley made Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., a Life Member; Rev. P. T. Klapp made Rev. Wm. S. Long a Life Member, and Rev. Jno. N. Farrell and Rev. M. L. Hurley made Mrs. Jno. R. Holt a Life Member.

Members for 10 *years* $5.

Rev A Iseley,	Rev J W Pinnix,	Rev Peter T Klapp,
Alfred Moring,	J M Davis,	James Gilliam,
Wm K Martin,	H C Sigmon,	L D Falkenor,
J H Horton,	J F O'Kelly,	J H Fleming,
Wm Lynch,	M C Winston,	Dr A W Schocht,
Z N Apple,	W H Buntin,	Mrs A W Schocht,
A A Farmer,	J J Jenkins,	Mrs Amanda Holmes,

Annual Members $1.

Rev Solomon Apple,	Rev A G Anderson,	Rev W S Long,

Rev H B Hayes,
Rev J N Farrell,
Rev M L Hurley,
M L Winston,
W D Jones,
W T Fuller,
J C Gunter,
N M Watson,
P H Apple,
W Pearce,
J S Ashby,
L R Crocker,
E L Crocker,
Mrs L R Crocker,
Wm H Hayes,
Mrs Wm S Long,
Miss Anne Joe Long,
J E Long,
Wm S Long jr,
B C Long,
Mrs W T Young,
Mrs Mary B Coble,
A M Moring,
F O'Kelly Moring,
Miss Ada Farington,
Miss L A Jones,
Mrs R A Jones,
Miss Sue Turner,
Miss Rebecca Burroughs,
Rev P W Allen,
S I Ellis,
Wiley J Winston,
J H Farrell,
Rev J W Wellons,
J W Winfree,
J A Gunter,
Austin Whitsitt,
H A N Apple,
N M Coble,
K F Way,
E W Clements,
J L Clements,
L J Clements,
Mrs Ann E Clements,
Miss M F Anderson,
Miss R M Anderson,
Miss M G Anderson,
Mrs M L Winston,
Miss Florine J Winston,
Robt O Wellons Winston,
J M O'Kelly,
George S O'Kelly,
L D O'Kelly,
Miss Emma Winston,
Fitzhugh Lee Davis,
Miss Bettie Winston,
Miss Pattie Pearce,
Miss Stella Winston,
James Burroughs,
Miss V C Jones,
Mrs Louisa Levister,
Miss D C Homes,
W A Cook,
Joseph Pearce,
James H Cook,
S J Weathers,
Rev W G Clements,
J W Fuller,
T H May,
Miss E F May,
J J Cook,
G D Kerney,
Miss Sallie A Stroud,
Mrs Eliza J Farmer,
J P Winston,
Mrs Jno H Fleming,
Miss N P Fleming,
Mrs M E Pearce,
W O Farrell,
Miss Martha Joyner,
Miss V H May,
Miss Harriet Preddy,
W K Martin jr
K D Ellis,
George Winston,
F M Stone,
Henry Pearce jr
W R L Carmichael,
Mrs M P Winston,
Mrs Sarah L Wellons,
Jas H Harris,
Wiley Holmes,
Miss Katie Mason,
Mrs A B Apple,
Mrs R W Coble,
E W Jenkins,
Rev E W Beale,
A E Pearce,
L W Joyner.

Austin Whitsitt makes Miss Sarah E. Truitt an annual member; Rev. J. W. Pinnix makes Miss Martha H. Truitt an annual member; Rev. J. W. Wellons makes Mrs. Thomas Truitt an annual member; Rev. J. N. Farrell makes Rev. Thos. J. Fowler an annual member.

The members then adopted the Constitution recommended by the committee of Conference, and proceeded to the election of permanent officers.

Rev. J. W. Wellons was elected President.

Rev. Wm. S. Long, Vice-President.

Rev. J. W Pinnix, Secretary.

M. L. Winston, Treasurer.

The President, Vice-President, with Rev. Alfred Iseley, Wm. K. Martin and Alfred Moring, were made the Executive Committee.

The Society then adjourned to meet in accordance with the Constitution adopted.

J. W. WELLONS, Pres't.

J. W. PINNIX, Secretary.

Conference then resumed its business.

On motion of Rev. A. Apple, the members of Conference were requested to do all they could to secure members to the Missionary Society of the N. C. & Va. Christian Conference. The motion called forth earnest remarks from Rev. S. Apple, A. Iseley, Dr. W. B. Wellons, Revs. A. G. Anderson, H. B.

Hayes, Bro. J. T. Ball, Rev. P. T. Klapp, Bro. A. Moring, Revs. S. I. Ellis and E. W. Beale.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious services by Rev. A. Apple.

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[Fifth Day.]

Nov. 24, 1875.

The President in the Chair. Religious exercises by Rev. W. G. Clements.

Proceedings of yesterday read and approved.

Rev. J. N. Farrell was excused from further attendance during this session of Conference.

On motion of Bro. W. T. Ball, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the members of Conference hereby express their high appreciation of the excellent singing by the choir during its present session, led by Professor Carmichael.

The President then announced the following standing committees:

Education—Revs. A. G. Anderson, S. Apple and D. A. Long.

Executive Committee--A. Iseley, A. G. Anderson, W. W. Staley.

Home Missions—J. W. Wellons, W. G. Clements, J. W. Hatch.

Sabbath Schools—W. W. Staley, M. L. Hurley, P. W. Allen.

Temperance—J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp, C. A. Boon.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, the President of the Conference was made Chairman of the committee on Education.

A resolution of thanks to the citizens for hospitalities, and the Railroads for half fare tickets, was laid on the table until the congregation might be larger.

The committee on Periodicals then submitted the following

REPORT.

Your committee on Periodicals beg leave to report: Ever since the discovery of the art of printing, the Press has proved a powerful auxiliary in the support of a cause, whether that cause be a bad or a good one.

In the promulgation and spread of the blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ, no other means used has been so effective, save the preaching of the word by a living ministry. Almost in every land on the globe, whether civilized or uncivilized, has the Bible to greater or less extent been carried, and is diffusing its heavenly light into the dark and benighted minds of men, and imparting a saving knowledge of salvation from sin through the blood of the everlasting covenant. Millions of pages, too, in the form of tracts, like scintilations from the sun of righteousness, have found their way almost into every nook and corner of the earth.

In the support of the various religious denominations of this and other lands, has this mighty power been brought into requisition, and great very great have been the results. Our own, the Christian Church, has for years proven its great efficiency. How often have the firesides of our people been cheered and made happy by the weekly visits of our Periodicals. Next to the Bible, itself, should they be read and prized.

We think it is plain to all, that unceasing effort on the part of the friends of

our periodicals is absolutely necessary to their continued publication. The question arises, will they do what they reasonably can in their support?

In the first place: Shall the *Christian Sun*, the organ of our Church, edited and published by our esteemed Bro. W. B. Wellons, D.D., be sustained? or shall it cease to make its weekly visits to our homes and firesides? Shall we no more delight our hearts in pouring over its pages and drawing therefrom streams of joy and comfort? Shall its light, through our neglect of its interests, become dim and cease to illuminate our way? We think we hear hundreds of voices say, God forbid. Your committee therefore would enjoin upon all heads of families attached to our Church to become paying subscribers to our Church organ, the *Christian Sun*.

We also recommend the *Little Christian*, our Sunday School paper, to the consideration and support of our people. It is ably edited by Rev. J. T. Whitley, whose heart is in the work; and whose labors and advocacy of the cause of Sabbath Schools is surpassed by few. Shall its publication be sustained? To this end let all its friends and the friends of Sabbath Schools within our borders rally to its support.

We would further call to your favorable consideration the *Christian Unity*, a new paper got up in the interest of Christian Union among all the believers in Christ everywhere, edited by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., Rev. Thomas J. Melish and Rev. Wm. C. McCune. Let all who are in favor to the organic and absolute union of the children of God of every name and order, lend their support to its publication, that the prayer of Jesus to the Father may be answered, "That they may all be one * * that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

All of which is respectfully submitted,

H. B. HAYES,
W. K. MARTIN,
H. MARSHALL,
Committee.

And after remarks by Revs. H. B. Hayes and A. G. Anderson, the report was adopted.

The committee on Education then made the following

REPORT.

The committee on Education would make this additional report to what was reported to this Conference during the second day of its session.

We would recommend the subject of Education, as of vital importance to our success in all our Church enterprises; and as we have in our midst an excellent school at Graham, under the management of Rev. D. A. Long, which is fully adequate to the wants of our Churches. We would most respectfully recommend this Institution to the patronage of all our Churches.

We would also recommend that this Conference endeavor to secure to Rev. W. S. Long the sum of $164, that was pledged to him for the education of Ministerial Students.

W. S. LONG,
A. G. ANDERSON,
S. APPLE,
Committee.

And after remarks by Revs. A. G. Anderson, S. Apple, Bro. W. K. Martin, Revs. A. Iseley, D. A. Long, M. L. Hurley, and Bro. W. T. Ball, the report was adopted.

Rev. S. Apple then moved that this Conference order Rev. D. A. Long to appoint an agent in each one of the local Churches within the bounds of this Conference for the purpose of collecting the amount due Rev. W. S. Long, and forward the said amounts to him as soon as possible.

On motion of Bro. W. T. Ball,

RESOLVED, 1. That we hereby tender our thanks to the citizens of this community, who have entertained us so well during the sitting of this Conference.

RESOLVED, 2. That we take pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy extended to us by the Pastors and congregations which have received us into their pulpits during the session of this body.

RESOLVED, 3. That we appreciate the kindness extended us by the Railroads, in passing delegates and visitors for half fare.

A motion to defray the expenses of Rev. D. A. Long to the Methodist Conference, was lost.

The committee on Home Missions made the following report, which was adopted :

REPORT.

Your committee on Home Missions submit the following Churches without preachers for the next Conference year : Midway, Lebanon, Brandon's Chapel, Mt. Bethel, Liberty School House and Bethel.

J. W. WELLONS, Ch'n.

Rev. M. L. Hurley was requested to take charge of Midway. Rev. J. W. Pinnix was requested to take charge of Mt. Bethel. Rev. W. S. Long was requested to look after the Church at Bethel.

On motion, Rev. D. A. Long was added to the Executive Committee.

On motion of Rev. W. G. Clements, the names of the Churches with the names of their pastors, were ordered to be published in the "Christian Annual."

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. Dr. Wellons was requested to address this Conference on the subject of Periodicals. He gave an interesting account of his labors in connection with the publishing interests of the Church. He urged the members and friends of the Church to sustain the publishing interests of the denomination.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, Conference adjourned, to meet again at Salem Chapel, Forsythe county, N. C., on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in Nov., 1876.

W. S. LONG, *President.*

D. A. LONG. *Secretary.*

H. T. KLAPP, *Asst. Secretary.*

Ministerial Reports.

Rev. A. G. Anderson—Pastoral charge of Concord and Mt. Zion.

S. Apple—Devoted most of my time to the Sabbath School cause.

D. T. Deanes—Had charge of the Church at Liberty School House.

P. T. Klapp—Preached 57 times. Attended school five months.

S. I. Ellis—Preached as opportunity offered.

J. W. Pinnix—Preached monthly and acted as Bible Agent.

H. B. Hayes—Too feeble to engage in the work regularly.

J. W. Hatch—Had charge of the Church at Antioch.

W. S. Long—Had charge of four Churches.

D. A. Long—Preached regularly.

W. G. Clements—Had pastoral charge of four Churches.

C. A. Boon—Had pastoral charge of three Churches.

J. N. Farrell—Preached regularly at four Churches.

P. W. Allen—Pastor of the Church at Liberty.

M. L. Hurley—Had pastoral charge of the Church at Union.

W. W. Staley—Preached regularly and taught in Graham High School.

J. W. Holt—At Rutherford College,

M. L. Winston—Preached as opportunity offered.

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The following statement was presented by the Chairman of the Committee on Home Missions, and ordered to be printed :

Arrangement for supplying the Churches next year.

Union (Va.,) Reece's, Midway—M. L. Hurley.

Shallow Well, Christian Chapel, Zion, Morrisville, Pleasant Grove—P. T. Klapp.

Salem Chapel, Mt. Pisgah—J. W. Pinnix.

Bethlehem, Union, Pleasant Hill, Shallow Ford—A. Iseley.

Liberty—P. W. Allen.

Moore Union—C. A. Boon.

Providence, Mt. Auburn—D. A. Long.

Hayes', Martha's, O'Kelly's, New Elam—W. G. Clements.

Catawba Springs, Wake Chapel—J. N. Farrell.

Concord, Mt. Zion, Apple's—A. G. Anderson.

Damascus, Hines', Hanks'—W. S. Long.

Pope's, Oak Level, Good Hope, Pleasant Grove (Va.)—J. W. Wellons.

Antioch—J. W. Hatch.

Pleasant Hill (Johnson,) Pleasant Union—W. H. Franks.

Liberty School House—D. T. Deanes.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Reported last session.	Received.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole number of Communicants.	Sunday Schools.	Connected with the Sunday School.	Amount paid the Pastor.	For other purposes.	Whole amount paid.	Value of Church Property.
Good Hope	J. W. Wellons.	57	3	..	..	1	2	57	..		$ 65	$ 6	$ 71	$500
Oak Level	" "	87	2	..	..	..	1	61	..		75	9	70	
Antioch	J. W. Hatch	60	3	..	1	.	2	66	1	30				300
Bethel		40	1	.	..	..	..	41	..					300
New Providence	D. A. Long	332	22	..	1	1	.	328	1	117	200	179	379	3000
Pleasant Hill	J. N. Farrell	74	7	..	1	..	..	80	1	75			..	300
Liberty Sch'l House	D. T. Deanes	17	11	..	..	..	2	26	..		16			
Damascus	D. A. Long	72	13	..	..	..	..	84	1		83			
Mt. Pisgah	J. W. Pinnix	26	4	..	..	..	..	..	..		6¼			
Hayes' Chapel	W. G. Clements	55	18	.	..	2	..	71	1	60	48	25	73	
Mt. Zion	A. G. Anderson	28	3	..	..	2	2	29	..					500
Bell's Chapel	H. Franks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				
Catawba Springs	J. N. Farrell	91	8	..	..	..	..	99	..	..				
Apple's Chapel	W. S. Long	130	15	..	..	1	..	145	1	31	63			200
Martha' Chapel	W. G. Clements	24	3	..	..	..	..	25	..		20			500
Hines' Chapel	W. S. Long	71	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	79	34		..
Pleasant Grove	J. W. Wellons	83	23	1	1	2	1	81	1	70	203	41		2000
Hanks' Chapel	D. A. Long	159	8	1	..	2	4	160	1	30	175	4		500
Liberty	P. W. Allen	80	3	2	..	..	..	81	1	30	37		..	
Christian Chapel	C. A. Boon	156	2	..	2	6	2	146	1	31	55			500
Mt. Auburn	D. A. Long	82	..	..	..	..	..	91	1		200		208	1000
Moore Union	C. A. Boon	35	11	..	..	1	..	45	1	20	26	100	126	300
Shallow Well	" "	110	.	..	..	..	..	108	..	..	63	..		400
Bethlehem	A. Iseley	142	5	1	..	2	..	144	1	50	35	8	43	300
Salem Chapel	W. S. Long.	115	1	..	1	1	..	114	..	60	117	.		600
New Elam	W. G. Clements	84	15	..	2	..	2	95	1	40	76	34	110	600
Wake Chapel	J. N. Farrell	161	6	..	..	..	..	167	1	30				500
Union, N. C.	A. Iseley	253	8	..	..	2	2	253	..		56	44	100	800
Zion	J. N. Farrell	82	..	1	..	..	..	91	1	50	12			300
Mt. Bethel	W. S. Ling	31	1	1	1	..	..	31	..		18			80

MINUTES

OF THE

Georgia and Alabama Christian Conference.

ANTIOCH CHURCH, CHAMBERS CO., ALA., }
October 2nd, 1875. }

The GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by Rev. Jas. D. Elder, President of the last session.

On motion Rev. Jas. D. Elder was re-elected President, and Rev. Jas. L. Neese, Secretary.

The roll was called when the following ministers and lay-delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS.—Jas. D. Elder, Jas. L. Neese, G. M. Hurst.

LICENTIATES.—Thos. H. Elder, W. J. Maning.

Rev. Jubilee Smith, W. B. Ledger, John Burrow and L. E. Cofield being absent.

LAY-DELEGATES.—*Liberty*—Henry Knight, Wm. Collier, Lewis Laitham, John Dunceith. *New Hope*—Joseph Stephens, A. J. Chewning. *Antioch*—Elijah Beaird, Henry Kitchen, *New Harmony*—George W. Beaird. *Pleasant Grove*—Lewis Moony, T. J. Leet. *Christian*.—P. M. Holiway. The Churches in Georgia were not represented either by letter or delegates.

The letters from the different Churches were next read.

The President then appointed the following committees:

On Standing of the Churches—Lewis Laitham, A. J. Chewning, P. M. Holiway.

On Standing of the Ministry—Joseph Stephens, Henry Knight, Lewis Moony.

On Sabbath Schools—G. M. Hurst, Wm. Collier, Elijah Beaird.

On Periodicals—J. L. Neese, John Dunseith, Henry Kitchen.

On Temperance—Rev. J. L. Neese, G. W. Beaird, T. J. Lett,

On Education—Rev. G. M. Hurst, J. L. Neese, Wm. Collier.

On Examination—Rev. G. M. Hurst, Jas. L. Neese, J. D. Elder.

On the Itinerancy—Committee of the Whole.

Conference then adjourned to meet on Monday morning, Oct. 4th, at 8 o'clock, A. M.

[Second Day.]

Oct. 4th, 1875.

Conference met according to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. Jas. D. Elder.

On motion, the report of the several committees were called for, when the committee on Standing of the Churches made the following

REPORT.

We your committee on Standing of the Churches beg leave to report that through the delegates and by examining Church letters, we find all the Churches represented in good standing.—The Churches in Georgia not represented.—We therefore recommend that if those Churches wish to remain in this Conference, that they send representatives to the next Conference, if not, we withdraw from them.

A. J. Chewning, Chairman of the Committee on Standing of the Ministry, made the following

REPORT.

That we find all the ministers present in good standing, and in discharge of duty, and we hear no complaint on the part of others. Some are absent on account of sickness.

JOSEPH STEVENS, Chm'n.

The committee on Sabbath Schools made the following

REPORT.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report, that we find there is not as much attention given to our Sabbath Schools as should be, though some of our Churches have good Schools part of the time. We recommend a little more energy upon the part of ministers, deacons and church members, as we see a great and good work among the young can be accomplished by keeping up regular Schools.

G. M. HURST, Chm'n.

The committee on Periodicals submitted their

REPORT.

Your committee on Periodicals report, that we recommend the *Christian Sun* and the *Christian Unity*, published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, at Suffolk, Va., as worthy of patronage by all lovers of Christian Union. W. J. DUNSEITH, Chm'n.

The committee on Temperance made the following

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to report, that we recommend that all officers of the churches, ministers, &c, use all the efforts on their part they can to remedy this great evil in the Church. It needs no comment, we all can see the ruin produced by whiskey drinking. G. W. BEAIRD, Chm'n.

The committee on Education made the following

REPORT.

We your Committee on Education, beg leave to report that we suggest that all parents, most especially Christians, strive to give their children a good education, also recommend the use of the Bible in all schools as one of the most important branches of study. We also recommend our ministers to strive to acquire a good education and a thorough knowledge of Bible History. We most cheerfully recommend to the favorable consideration the school to be taught in the bounds of this Conference, at Antioch Church, Chambers County, Ala., by Rev. J. L. Neese, during 1876, as worthy of patronage.

G. M. HURST, Chm'n.

The committee on Examination presented the following

REPORT.

We your Committee on Examination, beg leave to report that we have satisfactorily examined Br. T. H. Elder, and recommend that he be set apart to the office of an Elder in the Church.

J. L. NEESE, Chm'n.

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

Jas. D. Elder—I have served as pastor of three Churches, Liberty, New Harmony and Antioch, and assisted Bro. T. H. Elder at Pleasant Grove, and James L. Neese at New Hope, besides many wayside appointments. This has been a busy year with me, and the Macedonian cry has come up from many places, to which I cou'd not respond. This has been a successful year with me; my labors have been blessed beyond my expectations, but the work is God's and will prevail. I have preached one hundred and thirty-four sermons and thirty-six exhortations, married five couples, received seventy-seven into the church and baptized forty-one and traveled two thousand and ten miles.

J. L. Neese—I have served as pastor of New Hope Church, assisted at several revival meetings, and preached whenever an opportunity offered. Have received some into the Church and feel that my labors have not been in vain and desire to do much more in my Masters Vineyard.

J. H. Elder—I have served as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, and have labored to the best of my ability, and feel that my labors have been blessed.

G. M. Hurst—I have not preached a great deal this year, owing to bad health, but have done all I could under the circumstances. I hope for the future to do more ministerial work.

On motion the Presbytery assembled, and Bro. T. H. Elder was ordained an Elder in the Church.

On motion, Bros. C. J. Hamilton and John Wheeler was licensed to preach.

On motion, it was resolved that the next session of this body be held at New Harmony Church in Randolph County, Ala., in October, 1876, commencing on Friday night before the first Sunday.

Resolved, That we return thanks to the Brethren and Citizens of this vicinity for their kindness and hospitality to us during Conference.

On motion, Rev. J. L. Neese was appointed to deliver the Introductory Sermon at the next Conference.

JAS. D. ELDER, *President*.

JAS. L. NEESE, *Secretary*.

APPENDIX TO CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

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After the forms had been worked off, we received the third day's proceedings of the Valley Virginia Conference, and the Ministerial Reports, condensed, of the Eastern Virginia Conference, which were not sent in at first by the Secretaries. We can do no better than insert them here, and those interested may read them in connection with the proceedings of these Conferences.

[*Third Day's Proceedings of the Valley Virginia Conference.*]

On motion of C. A. Henton, the Secretary was directed to have the minutes published in the *Christian Annual.*

The delegates from the various Churches became responsible for the following numbers:

Antioch 30, Linville 15, Locust Grove 7, Soliloquy 5, Rev. G. W. Wood's 5, Rev. J. C. Williams' 5.

Conference adjourned for dinner, during which time the Rev. C. J. Rolston preached a sermon from John xvii: 17. "Thy word is truth."

[*Afternoon Session.*]

The President in the chair.

The committee on Education submitted the following

REPORT.

The importance of intellectual training cannot be over estimated. God has given us minds capable of great and noble achievements, but they must be cultivated by diligent study in order to be made effective. Ignorance and superstition are great obstacles to the progress of Christianity, and both of these may be removed by a judicious course of mental culture. We urge our people to educate their children. Far better will it be to give them a good education and leave them penniless, than to bequeath them thousands of dollars with gross ignorance as an accompaniment. At the present time education is so cheap as to be within the reach of all who truly desire it. Especially do we advise that young men aspiring to the ministry of the Gospel be sought out, encouraged and thoroughly educated for their responsible work. The reapers in God's moral harvest field should have their scythes sharpened by long and patient effort before they begin their work

In our State there are many excellent institutions of learning at which young people may be trained for usefulness. We commend the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, at Suffolk, Va., now under the Presidency of the Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., and the Graham High School, at Graham, N. C., of which the Rev. D. A. Long, is principal, to the patronage of our people and the general public.

We have examined Bro. Williams, Licentiate, and find he has not made as great progress as we could have desired, but are satisfied that he has been prevented from so doing by reason of circumstances beyond his control, but Bro. Williams thinks he will be able to make much greater progress the ensuing year than he has done in the past. We would recommend Conference to give him all the encouragement they can.

Respectfully Submitted. C. J. ROLSTON, G. W. WOODS. } Committee.

Earnest remarks were made by Revs. C. J. Rolston, J. T. Whitley, W. T. Walker and Geo. W. Woods, after which the report was adopted.

The President then announced the following standing committees for the ensuing year:

Education—Revs. W. S. Walker and C. J. Rolston.

Home Missions—D. F. Lineweaver, Col. E. Sipe, Geo. A. Stilwell, Moses Dodson and Walker Frankurn.

Sunday Schools—C. A. Henton, A. R. Rhinehart, M. Dodson.

Temperance—Rev. J. C. Williams, D. F. Lineweaver and Rev. Geo. W. Woods.

Executive Committee—Rev. W. T. Walker, Rev. C. J. Rolston, Rev. Geo. W. Woods and the President, Jesse Burkholder, by request of the Conference, was added to this committee.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, Rev. W. T. Walker and Bro. C. A. Henton were appointed a committee to examine the deed Church property of Bethlehem Church, and report to the Executive Committee.

The committee on Home Missions offered their report, when, on motion of C. A. Henton, the body went into a Committee of the Whole, with Rev. J. T. Whitley in the Chair, to consider the matter of Home Missions.

Speeches were made by D. F. Lineweaver, W. T. Walker, C. A. Henton, G. W. Woods, Jesse Burkholder and C. J. Rolston. The Committee of the Whole then arose and reported to Conference.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, the report on Home Mission was re committed, and ordered to be amended, the final report to be rendered to the Executive Committee in time for publication with the minutes.

Rev. C. J. Rolston and Rev. G. W. Woods were appointed Fraternal Messengers to the Eastern Virginia and North Carolina Conference.

The committee on Religious Exercise then reported the Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach to-morrow, (Sunday) at 11 o'clock, a. m.

Sunday School Mass Meeting at 2 o'clock, p. m., to be addressed by Revs. J. T. Whitley and C. J. Rolston. Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach at Antioch, Sunday evening, at 7½ o'clock.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Rolston, Conference adjourned to meet at Soliloquy Church, Shenendoah County, Va., beginning on Thursday before the 1st Sunday in September, 1876. Prayer by Rev. G. W. Woods.

JESSE BURKHOLDER, *President*.

C. J. RALSTON, *Secretary*.

C. A. HENTON, *Asst. Sec'y*.

N. B.—The report on Home Missions which was re-committed to the committee has not been forwarded to the Secretary as was ordered.

MINISTERS REPORTS CONDENSED.

C. A. Apple—Labored during the past year with the Church at Holy Neck, as Pastor of the Church and Superintendant of the Sunday School, preaching or lecturing every Sunday. Received four or five new members, baptized several persons, married several couples, and performed a number of funeral ceremonies. Also conducted a high school.

J. Presley Barrett—Served the Church at Johnson's Grove, and attended Richmond College. Preached thirty-three sermons, delivered sixteen lectures of a religious character, held ten prayer meetings, addressed six Sunday Schools, aided in six protracted meetings, made about fifty pastoral visits and traveled two thousand miles.

M. B. Barrett—Had charge of the Churches at Barrett's and Mt. Carmel, and preached occasionally at Ivor and Suffolk. Held a protracted meeting at each of the Churches in charge, and at Ivor, and assisted in a meeting at Millfield Baptist Church. Preached about seventy sermons, ten funeral discourses, delivered several Sabbath School lectures, received twenty-three new members, baptized eighteen persons and married nineteen couples.

S. S. Barrett—Had charge of no church, but preached at Providence, Liberty, Cypress, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Ivor, Bethlehem and other places as opportunity offered. Married eleven couples and preached three funerals.

E. W. Beale—Had pastoral care of the Churches at Damascus, Oakland, Berea, (Nansemond) and Cypress Chapel, preaching monthly at each place. Held four protracted meetings which resulted in sixty conversions and forty-six accessions to the membership of the Churches. Preached about seventy sermons, a number of funeral discourses and delivered several Sabbath School addresses.

J. T. Kitchen—Labored during the year as Pastor of the Church at Liberty, preaching there twice a month. Preached a part of the year at Cross' School House, Gates County, N. C. Delivered about sixty sermons and addresses.

W. B. Wellons—Sustained the pastoral relation to the Churches at Suffolk and Bethlehem. Preached one hundred and thirty-one sermons, held forty-two prayer meetings, attended nineteen funerals, delivered four addresses on temperance, married fourteen couples, visited and prayed with a number of sick persons and families in distress, edited and published the "Christian Sun," edited and published the "Christian Unity," since August 1st., superintended the publication of the "Little Christian," performed the duties of President of the General Christian Convention, acted as Secretary and Publisher of the Union Christian Churches of America, acted as President of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute since August last, acted as Secretary and Publisher of the Supreme Council Friends of Temperance and President of the Subordinate Council at Suffolk.

J. T. Whitley—Had the pastoral care of the Churches at Spring Hill and Antioch, preached twice a month at each place. Also preached frequently at Sunnyside, Windsor, and other places. Conducted two protracted meetings, which resulted in forty-five conversions, attended the Virginia Valley Conference in September, and preached several times, edited the "Little Christian," preparing for it an edition of the International Sunday School lessons, preached eighty sermons, made about fifty addresses on religious and moral subjects, performed about twenty funeral services, and married quite a number of couples.

Conferences of Colored Persons.

The North Carolina Conference was organized in the city of Raleigh in 1866, and was, perhaps, the first Conference of any denomination, composed wholly of colored persons, organized in the South after the close of the war and the emancipation of the colored race. Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., President of the General Christian Convention, and Rev. H. B. Hayes and Rev. J. W. Wellons were present to aid in the organization of the Conference. Rev. Wm M. Hayes was the first President.

The Western North Carolina Conference met in the city of Raleigh, N. C., on the 4th of November, and the session was a profitable one, but the proceedings have not yet reached us, and we can give no particulars. Their next session will be held in Plymouth, N. C.

The Virginia Conference met at Providence in Norfolk county, on the 23d of October, and had a good session. Rev. R. C. Tuck was with them one day, and assisted them. The next session will be held at Antioch, Isle of Wight county, Va.

The Eastern North Carolina Conference held its annual session at New Berne, in September.

The Colored Conferences will publish their proceedings together. We are unable to give the statistics or the names and addresses of the preachers.

The three Conferences number about forty ministers, and about fifty-five or sixty churches.

The visits of the white ministers to their annual meetings are highly appreciated.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

Eastern Virginia Conference.

DAMASCUS, GATES CO., N. C.,
Tuesday, July 20th, 1875.

The Sunday School Convention of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference, met here to-day at 11 o'clock, a. m., and was called to order by the Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., President.

The following officers were present:

President—Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D.

Secretary—Rev. C. A. Apple.

Treasurer—Thos. J. Kilby, Esq.

The Convention was opened by singing

"All hail the power of Jesus' name."

After which prayer was offered by Rev. R. H. Holland.

After singing another hymn, and prayer by Bro. Jno. Oberry, an address of welcome was delivered by Rev. E. W. Beale, pastor of the Church at Damascus. The President responded to Bro. Beale's address in appropriate terms.

Ministers Present—W. B. Wellons, D. D., C. A. Apple, E. W. Beale, J. T. Whitley, R. H. Costen, R. H. Holland, J. Pressley Barrett, John T. Kitchen.

Lay Delegates—Antioch—B. C. Roberts, Alex. M. Eley.

Berea—(Nansemond) F. E. Parker, Thomas Morrison.

Bethlehem—Richard Copeland, Supt., Chas. P. Norfleet.

Cypress—Josiah Wilkins, Supt., Claudius J. Riddick, Jas. R. Parker.

Holy Neck—Z. E. Holland, Isaac W. Everett, M. T. Darden, Dr. R. C. Everett.

Liberty Spring—A. J. Raby, Supt., Jno. W. Lassiter, Rich. T. Rawles.

Mr. Carmel—Jas. E. T. Joyner, Jos. H. English.

Spring Hill—H. T. West, Supt.

Suffolk—Dr. F. W. Tatem, Jas. R. Baker, R. H. Rawles, J. Frank Little, B. F. Cutchin, Jr., Prof. Joseph King.

Damascus—J. R. Hinton, Supt., J. T. Morris, Jno. B. Lassiter, Geo. J. Costen

Oakland—B. C. Eley, Supt.

The Convention then went into the election of permanent officers for the ensuing year, with the following results:

Rev. J. T. Whitley, President.

Rev. W. B Wellons, D. D., Vice President.

Rev. C. A. Apple resigned the office of standing Secretary. The Convention after returning thanks to Bro. Apple, elected J. Pressley Barrett as his successor.

The organization being complete, the following brethren were elected an Executive Committee, John Oberry, Jos. King and Dr. F. W. Tatem.

On motion Bros. H. T. West and Z. E. Holland were appointed a committee on Finance.

On motion, Bros. Joseph King, A. M., R. H. Rawls, Dr. R. C. Everett were appointed a committee on periodicals.

Bro. John Oberry, ex-Superintendent of Holy Neck School was invited to a seat in the Convention as an honorary member.

Reports were received from the following Schools: Antioch, Berea (Nansemond), Barretts, Bethlehem, Cypress, Damascus, Holy Neck, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Suffolk, Spring Hill and Sunny Side.

Reports showed progress in our work, generally.

President called for three minute speeches from the Superintendents upon condition of Sunday School work in their respective fields, with the following responses:

Holy Neck—Rev. C. A. Apple—School doing well; much interest manifested in the International Sunday School Lessons, published in the *Little Christian*—found this system more profitable than any other.

Suffolk—Dr. F. W. Tatem—School flourishing—International system of instruction used, and doing well with it—gains the attention of pupils more easily than any other system ever used.

Oakland—B. C. Eley—School in very good condition—International system working well.

Liberty Spring—A. J. Raby—School healthy—International system exciting much interest in the study of the Scriptures.

Bethlehem—Richard Copeland—School improving rapidly—more interest than for years past.

Antioch—B. C. Roberts—School using International system of instruction—doing well.

Berea (Nansemond)—F. E. Parker—Doing good work with the International System. Much interest in the work.

Spring Hill—H. T. West—School Evergreen—Interest in-

creased one hundred per. cent, in last six months; International System working finely.

Cypress—Josiah Wilkins—School alive in its work for Jesus: using International Lessons with much success.

Liberty—Rev. J. T. Kitchen—School flourishing.

Mt. Carmel—Jas. E. T. Joyner—Interest increasing, teachers more punctual, using with much profit International System.

Johnson's Grove—J. P. Barrett—More prosperous than at any former period of its history, much interest manifested.

Damascus—J. R. Hinton—School growing, cause hopeful.

Hebron—Rev. R. H. Holland—School in a good condition.

The hour for dinner having arrived, the Convention took a recess of an hour and a half.

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[Afternoon Session.]

2½ o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met with the President in the chair, and opened with singing.

The President announced the general subject for discussion: "Who should be in the School?" Under this head, Dr. Tatem discussed the subject: "How to secure more children?" He thought to get parents interested would secure the children.

"How to secure more young people?"—by Rev. Dr. Wellons. He had found great difficulty in this matter. He thought the best way was to make the school so interesting that they could not leave it.

"How to secure more parents?"—by Bro. John Oberry. He thought the pastor's influence in his visiting brought to bear properly upon this subject would greatly help to secure them.

"Who should be in the school, and how to get them there," was considered in a general discussion by Rev. Dr. Wellons, Bros. John Oberry, Josiah Wilkins, Richard Copeland, Rev. C. A. Apple, Prof. Joseph King, A. M., and J. Pressley Barrett. All these brethren agreed that there was room for everybody in the school, and that young ladies influence would greatly help in getting them there. At the conclusion of this discussion, the Convention joined in singing:

"Shall we gather at the river."

"What shall be done in the School?" was then taken up for discussion. Best opening and closing exercises was considered by R. H. Rawles. He gave several plans which are in use, but was specially in favor with Apple's Manual and the plan suggested by the *Little Christian*.

"What to sing and how to sing it?" was discussed by Rev. J. T. Whitley. He would sing only the best sentiment, sound

theology. He would have every school to avoid light idle singing, throwing as much reverence in this department as practical.

"Superintendents duties in school hour?" by Rev. J. T. Kitchen. He thought he should be busy in a general over sight of the school.

"Teacher's duties in school?" by Rev. C. A. Apple. He thought direct earnest attention to the lesson and the pupil should be paramount in his duties.

"Duties of Secretary and Librarian in school hour?" by J. Pressley Barrett. He defined many duties enjoined upon these officers, and as an extra duty to speak a word for Jesus to the children while performing the regular work.

"Pastor's duties in school hour?" by Rev. E. W. Beale. Advise with officers and teachers, offer general suggestions, fill vacancies, and occasionally make five minutes speeches to the children.

"Books and papers for the school?" by Rev. Dr. Wellons. He would have first, the Bible, with the International system, then select libraries and first class Sunday School journals and thus stimulate our study of the Bible as highly productive of the unity of Christ's Church. The speaker commended the use of primmers and spellers as preparatory to the use of this system when necessary.

Rev. C. A. Apple commended with emphasis, a more devoted study of the Bible, thought there was too much of the gaudy or sensational literature in our schools.

The President announced that three minute speeches were in order upon any subject pertaining to our work.

Prof. King spoke on Teacher's duties. He thought special preparation with variety in the plan of teaching very necessary, that the teacher should look with an anxious interest after each pupil, praising the bright and encouraging the dull.

Rev. J. T. Whitley spoke of his own plan of work in the school, as a pastor. Often preach from the subject of the lesson, at each appointment extend an invitation to sinners to come to Christ. He thought this was the gospel plan.

Dr. Tatem spoke on the art of teaching, giving valuable hints.

Dr. Wellons spoke on pastors' duties, showing how all might make lasting impressions by little deeds and gentle words toward the children.

On motion the Convention adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock, a. m.

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SECOND DAY.

Convention met and spent a short while in devotional exercises conducted by the President.

Secretary called the roll and noted the absentees.

Proceedings of yesterday were read and with a correction suggested, were approved.

Committee on Finance were allowed at its request, until $2\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock this evening to report.

Bro. W. H. Brinkley, of Cypress arrived, and was enrolled a member of the Convention.

Committee on Periodicals, through its chairman made the following

REPORT.

Your committee on Sunday School Periodicals beg leave to report as follows:

We are fully impressed with the great importance of a suitable periodical, or periodicals, for use in every Sunday School.

As every political party has its party organ, one or more, to advocate its peculiar principles, as every religious denomination has its own church paper, peculiar to itself, and advocating its own peculiar tenets, so should the Sunday School have its school papers for the purpose of bringing its own particular work more prominently before the school and the public.

Of the various publications devoted to the interests of Sabbath Schools, your committee would recommend two, the *Sunday School Times*," a very able exponent of Sunday School work in general, published in Philadelphia, and the *Little Christian*, edited by Rev. J. T. Whitley, and published in Suffolk. Your committee are of the opinion that the *Little Christian* meets more fully the wants of our own church than any other Sunday School paper published at present. It is ably edited, its selections are appropriate, and nothing appears in its columns, in the opinion of your committee, that should prevent its being adopted and used by other denominations.

Though only a little more than a year old, we believe it has already accomplished a vast amount of good, that its usefulness is increasing, and that it has proved a great blessing to the church.

In view of these facts, your committee think that the *Little Christian* is deserving of general support, and would strongly urge upon our own people to give it, in future, a more liberal patronage than it has yet received, in order that its influence for good may continue to widen and deepen until it shall have accomplished the great and noble purposes for which it was established.

JOSEPH KING,
R. H. RAWLES,
R. C. EVERETT. } Committee.

The report called forth remarks from the Rev. Dr. Wellons, publisher of the *Little Christian*, in regard to the financial condition of that paper, urging a more liberal support on the part of the Convention.

Further remarks to this end were made by Rev. C. A. Apple, Dr. F. W. Tatem, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. E. W. Beale and Rev. R. H. Holland. The report was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Rev. R. H. Holland, it was decided to appoint a Committee of two in each School to canvass for the *Little Christian*.

It being in order, the place and time of the meeting of the Convention was agreed upon: To meet with the Church at Oakland, Nansemond County, Va., Tuesday after the third Sunday in July, 1876.

The minutes of this Convention were ordered to be published in the Christian Annual for 1875.

The President called up the discussion for the hour: "Teaching in the Sunday School." Under this head Rev. J. T. Whitley discussed the "Best System of Sunday School Study." He contrasted the systems of the past with the present. Among those considered were:

First, the "no system," or the "old time" way of reading as many chapters as possible, without comment or instruction, only a little better than no school at all.

Second, the Question Book system, which he thought very good, but should be used only in conjunction with better systems.

Third, the Mimpriss system, very good in its day, but was now worn out.

Fourth, the International system, which is the best. Advantages of this system: 1st. It has all the excellences of other uniform systems. 2d. Provides for the study of the Bible, instead of the mere superficial reading of it. 3d. Provides for the study of the whole Bible, instead of a part of it. 4th. Under this system the teacher can obtain all necessary helps with more ease and less expense than under any other system. 5th. It systematizes and stimulates our study of the Bible. 6th. Highly promotive of the unity of Christ's Church.

"Training of Teachers?" by Rev. R. H. Holland. He thought that they should be trained in the study of God's Word. Advised stated teacher's meetings for this purpose. Urged fervent prayer.

"How to teach a Sunday School Lesson?" by Rev. E. W. Beale. He thought the teacher must be deeply impressed with his lesson, in order to teach it successfully. Manner of teaching should be plain.

"The Blackboard" was discussed and illustrated with much skill, by Prof. Joseph King, A. M., also showing very aptly the beauty and power of object teaching.

"The Question Box?" by Rev. J. T. Whitley, was conducted with much pleasure and profit to the Convention. He was assisted by Rev. Dr. Wellons and Rev. C. A. Apple.

The Convention then took a recess for one hour and a half for dinner.

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[Afternoon Session.]

The Convention met with the President in the chair.

Bro. Thos. J. Kilby, Treasurer of the Convention made the following report which was adopted:

REPORT.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION,
In Account with Thos. J. Kilby, Treasurer,
July 20th, 1875.

By balance due 27th May, 1874	$49,13
By interest on same from May 27th, 1874, to July 20th, 1875	3,37
Total	$52,50.
By quota from Sunny Side School	$00,60
From Antioch	1,20
Spring Hill	37
Mount Carmel	78
Suffolk	1,41
Holy Neck	95
Berea, Nansemond County	54
Liberty Spring	78
Cypress	46
Damascus	48
Total	$60,07
To amount paid Editor of Christian Sun for Printing Sundry Documents	$19,00
Balance on hand	$41,07

I beg leave to report that the within account exhibits the state of the finances of the Sunday School Convention of the Christian Church. Ten out of thirteen schools have paid the regular assessment. I would farther report that the assessment of one cent for each pupil is not sufficient to defray the expense of printing, which makes it necessary to draw upon the principal, which has been done at this time, and unless the assessment is increased, the whole amount will be exhausted in two or three years. Respectfully submitted.

THOS. J. KILBY, Treasurer.

The Committee on Finance made the following report, which was also adopted:

REPORT.

To the Sunday School Convention, now in session at Damascus Church:

The undersigned, appointed a Committee on Finance, beg leave to report that we have examined the state of the finances of the Convention, in the hands of the Treasurer, and find a balance in hand to-day, of forty-one dollars and seven cents; and we find also, that the present assessment of one cent per head of each pupil, will not pay the expenses necessarily incurred, without encroaching upon the principal, which we think is bad policy, and would therefore recommend the assessment be increased to one and one-half cents, which may, perhaps meet the demand, if the Schools will pay up punctually. Ten schools out of thirteen have paid at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,

Z. E. HOLLAND,
H. T. WEST. } Committee.

Dr. Tatem offered the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That each member of this Convention contribute One Dollar and that the Canvassers of the different Schools use their best energies to obtain One Dollar from each male member, and Fifty Cents from female members, to continue the publication of the LITTLE CHRISTIAN.

The President called up the subject: "The Infant Class, who should teach it, and what should be taught?" Which was discussed by Rev. J. T. Kitchen. He thought some godly per-

son who is fully consecrated to the work should teach this class. That the method of object teaching is best adapted to the instruction of this department of the School.

"Next Sunday's Lesson taught?" by Rev. J. T. Whitley. Subject: The New Birth. He fully showed the advantages of the International System, delighting the Convention with his skill and ready information in his work.

Dr. Tatem moved "a vote of thanks" to the brethren and friends of Damascus for their kindness and hospitality, which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

Rev. Dr. Wellons entertained the Convention with remarks concerning the history of the Church, with which we are assembled.

On motion the Convention adjourned to meet with the Church at Oakland, Nansemond county, Va., Tuesday after the third Sunday in July, 1876.

The Convention rising and singing the hymn,

"Blessed be the tie that binds."

And the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Wellons.

J. T. WHITLEY, *President.*

J. P. BARRETT, *Secretary.*

Ministerial Directory.

ELDERS.

Albright, Joseph....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Albright, H. A. ..Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Allen, Chastien..... Oxford, N. C.
Allen, P. W.....Henderson, N. C.
Anderson, A. G..Anderson's Store, N.C.
Apple, Alfred Red Bank, Va.
Apple, Solomon.....Milton, N. C.
Apple C. A..... Holy Neck, Va.
Ausley, J. B.....Jonesborough, N. C.
Barrett, S. S.....Norfolk, Va.
Barrett, M. B.....Ivor, Va.
Barrett, J. P.....Richmond, Va.
Beale, E. W..... Suffolk, Va.
Boon, C. A.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Brown, Wm. R.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Brady, W. G.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Burrow, John.....Wedowee, Ala.
Clements, W. G.....Morrisville, N. C.
Cofield, Lewis.....Wedowee, Ala.
Costen, R. H.....Suffolk, Va.
Craven, Wm. M.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Deanes, D. T.....Summerfield, N. C.
Elder, J. D.....Milltown, Ala.
Elder, T. H.....Milltown, Ala.
Farrell, John N.....Happy Home, N. C.
Fowler, Thos. J.....Mebaneville, N. C.
Franks, Wm. H.....Raleigh, N. C.
Greggs, C. W.....Wedowee, Ala.
Harding, James A...Macksville, W. Va.
Hatch, John W.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Hayes, H. B.....Raleigh, N. C.
Holland, R. H.....Carrsville, Va.
Hurley, M. L.....Red Bank, Va.
Hurst, G. M.....Milnor, Ala.
Iseley, Alfred....Company Shops, N, C.
Kitchen, John T.....Vicksville, Va.
Klapp, Peter T.....Pittsboro, N. C.
Lawrence, John S..Browers' Mills, N. C.
Lawrence, W. W..Browers' Mills, N. C.
Long, Wm S.....Graham, N. C.
Long, D. A..... Graham, N. C.
Manning, J. N Norfolk, Va.
Neese, J. L..... Roanoke, Ala.
Nelson, A. S.....Carter's Mills, N. C.
Pinnix, J. W.....Danville, Va.
Rawles, Robert.....Ivor, Va.
Rolston, C J.....Nurneysville, Va.
Smith, Jubilee.....Richland, Ga.
Sorrell, M. J.....West Point, Ga.
Staley, W. W.....Graham, N. C.
Tinnen, R. G.....Cedar Grove, N. C.
Tuck, R. C.....Norfolk, Va.
Walker, Wm. T.....Linville, Va.
Wellons, W. B.....Suffolk, Va.
Wellons, J. W.....Franklinton, N. C.
Whitley, J. T.....Windsor, Va.
Woods, G. W.....New Market, Va.

LICENTIATES.

Elder, Thomas H.....Milltown, Ala.
Ellis, S. I.....Chapel Hill, N. C.
Holt, J. W.....Happy Home, N. C.
Hamilton, C. J.....Roanoke, Ala.
Humble, P. P.....Buffalo Ford, N. C.
Iseley, A F Company Shops, N. C.
Manning, W. J.....Milltown, Ala.
McLeod, D. B.....Troy, N. C.
Scott, Jno. A...Company Shops, N. C.
Williams, John C.....Edom, Va.
Winston, M. L.....Dutchville, N. C.
Wheeler, J.....Louisia, Ala.

ORDAINED ELDERS.

John T. Kitchen, Eastern Virginia Conference.
J. Pressley Barrett, Eastern Virginia Conference.
Peter T. Klapp, North Carolina Conference.
Joseph W. Pinnix, North Carolina Conference.
Thomas H. Elder, Georgia and Alabama Conference.

LICENTIATES.

C. J. Hamilton, Georgia and Alabama Conference.
John Wheeler, Georgia and Alabama Conference.
Samuel H. Way, Deep River Valley Conference.
George W. Stout, Deep River Valley Conference.

CHURCHES DEDICATED.

Pope's Chapel, Franklin County, N. C., November 21st, 1875.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The Suffolk Collegiate Institute, located at Suffolk, Va., is owned by a joint Stock company, the great body of whom, are members of the Christian Church. It is entirely unsectarian, and is receiving support from all denominations, yet it is patronized mainly by the Christians. It has taken position among the best schools of the State. Open to both sexes. Ninety-four students were admitted during the first quarter of the Fall term of 1875.

FACULTY:

REV. W. B. WELLONS, D. D., President.
JOSEPH KING, A. M., Prof. Mathematics, Natural Science and History.
JOHN H. WRIGHT, A. M., Latin, Greek, French and Literature.
Miss Fannie D. Sumner, Teacher in the Female Department.
Prof. Wm. S. Williams, Music on Piano, Organ, &c.
Executive Board—Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., President.
Ex-Officio—Rev. J. N. Manning, Maj. D. B. Dunbar and Joseph Boothe, Esq.
Secretary—Prof. Joseph King.

The yearly Term opens September 20th, and closes June 30th. The first Session closes February 15th, and the second Session begins the 16th of February, and closes at the end of the Term.

The Graham High School, is located at Graham, N. C. Is in the main, supported by the Christians, and has been accepted by the North Carolina and Virginia Conferences. As its name implies, it is a school of high grade.

FACULTY.

REV. D. A. LONG, A. M., Principal and Proprietor.
REV. WM. W. STALEY, A. B.
B. F. LONG, A. B.
Miss Sallie Boyd, Instructress in Music.

Term opens last Monday in August and closes last Friday in May.

Rev. J. L. Neese is conducting a school at Antioch Church, Chambers County, Ala., which is receiving the patronage, and has been accepted by the Georgia and Alabama Conferences.

CHRISTIAN BOOK CONCERN.

The Publishing House of the Christians is located at Suffolk, Va.

The Christian Sun is published every Friday, at $2,10 a year. Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., Editor.

The Little Christian is published the 1st and 15th of each month, for Sunday Schools. Rev. J. T. Whitley, Editor.

The Christian Unity, an undenominational and unsectarian paper, devoted to Christian Union. Is published at Suffolk, Va., and Cincinnati, Ohio. Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., Rev. Wm. C. McCune and Rev. Thos. J. Melish, Editors.

The Christian Hymn Book, Principles and Government of the Christian Church,

Apple's Sunday School Manual, the Christian Annual and Christian Tracts, are published by the concern. W. B. Wellons, General Agent.

Places of Meetings of the Conferences for 1876.

Eastern Virginia, Suffolk, November, 1st.
Valley Virginia, Soliloquy, Shenandoah County, August 31st.
North Carolina, Salem Chapel, Forsythe County, November 17th.
Deep River, Shady Grove, N. C., Montgomery County, October 5th.
Georgia and Alabama, New Harmony, Randolph County, Ala., September 29th.
Virginia Colored Conference, Holland's School House, Isle of Wight County, October 19th.
North Carolina Colored Conference, Spring Green, Plymouth, November 8th.

POSITION OF CHRISTIAN UNION.

The Christians have always been the earnest advocates of union among the followers of Christ. They have ever practiced union, when practicable. They recognize all Evangelical ministers in their office, and their pulpits have been open to them. They are ready to worship and work with all believers in Christ, of every name. To the communion table, when spread by them, all believers are invited. Christian ministers are always ready to associate with all who love Christ, and to have fellowship with all who accept him as their Saviour. They cling to the name Christian, because there is nothing exclusive in it, and reject all party names because of their exclusiveness. They acknowledge no Head, no leader but Christ, because all believers are one in Him. They object to all creeds which cannot be expressed in the precise language of the Scriptures, because in a creed expressed in the teachings of Divine inspiration all may agree. They have adopted Christian character as their test of fellowship, believing that all who believe in Jesus and trust in him for salvation, ought to be received to christian and church fellowship. They, therefore, profess to receive all to their fellowship who give credible evidence that Christ has received them. They only require unity of sentiment in the essentials of religion, and extend to all the right of private judgment in things not considered essential to salvation.

These principles they cling to with much tenacity because the people of God may thus be united in feeling and practice. In the great, grand union movement of the day, the Christians find themselves in the front rank. But they are willing to be considered the most humble, and even absorbed, in the great army of union lovers and workers now concentrating upon the great principles which they have long cherished and practiced.

The Christians have taken the world for their field of labor, and are endeavoring to bring together in co-operation the liberal and good everywhere.

The position thus occupied on this great question, is in full accord with the great union movements of the age, which gave rise to a Convention of the lovers of Christian union in Cincinnati, Ohio, in October 1874, and at Suffolk, Va., in May 1875, and the organization of the Christian Union Churches of America, of which organization, Rev. Thomas J. Melish, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is President, and Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., of Suffolk, Va , is Secretary. This organization is gaining adherents in every section of the country, and as the spirit and practice of the Christian Union increases, its strength and influence will be augmented. The Christian Unity edited by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., Rev. W. C. McCune and Rev. Thomas J. Melish, published at Suffolk, Va., and Cincinnati, Ohio, is the organ of this movement.

All who desire information in reference to the organization of new Churches, on the Christian platform, or as Christian Union Churches of America, may address W. B. Wellons, D. D., Suffolk, Va., and receive such information as may be desired.

CHRISTIAN CHRONOLOGY.

Secession of Rev. James O'Kelly, and about thirty other ministers from the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Baltimore, November 1st, 1792.

Organization and adoption of the name CHRISTIAN, to the exclusion of all other names, in a Conference held in Surry County, Va., August 4th, 1794.

James O'Kelly died in Chatham County, N. C., October 16th, 1826, aged 92 years.

Eastern Virginia Conference organized at Holy Neck, Nansemond County, in May 1817.

The North Carolina and Virginia Conference organized in 1825.

Deep Run Conference organized in 1864

Valley Virginia Conference organized in August 1868.

Georgia and Alabama Conference—time of organization unknown.

The North Carolina Colored Conference organized in November 1866. The first Conference composed wholly of colored persons, organized in the South.

The CHRISTIAN SUN commenced at Hillsborough, N. C., January 1st, 1843, Rev. D. W. Kerr, Editor.

Southern Christian Association organized at Good Hope, Granville County, N. C., April 7th, 1847.

A monument raised over the grave of Rev. James O'Kelly, October 15th, 1854.

The Southern Christian General Convention organized at Union, Alamance County, N. C., September 30th, 1856.

Second Session of the Convention held at Cypress Chapel, Nansemond County, Va., May 4th, 1858.

General Convention of the Christian Church organized at Mt. Auburn, Warren County, N. C., May 2d, 1866.

A Declaration of Principles, Form of Government and Directory for Worship devised in 1866, endorsed by the Conferences of this year and ratified in an extra Session of the Convention, held at Mt. Auburn, Warren Co., N. C., May 1st, 1867

Second Session of the General Convention, held at Suffolk, Va., May 6th, 1870.

Third Session of the General Convention, held at Graham, N. C.

UNION CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF AMERICA.

The union feeling that has pervaded the hearts of so many of God's people of different Evangelical denominations, for a few years past, led to a call for a Convention of union-lovers, in the city of New York, during the meeting of the World's Evangelical Alliance in October 1873. This Convention agreed upon no plan of organization. A second call was made for a Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, in October 1874. At this Convention a plan of organization was agreed upon and a basis of union was devised, which received the endorsation of Fifty Clergymen of different denominations, with a number of organized Churches, and a third meeting was at Suffolk, Va., in May 1875, which was well attended, and a plan for co-operation was decided upon for the organization known as "Union Christian Churches of America." The plan of organization is almost precisely that which prevails among the Christians whose work is represented in this ANNUAL.

The officers of this new organization are as follows:

PRESIDENT—Rev. Thomas J. Melish, Cincinnati, Ohio.

SECRETARY—Rev. J. T. Whitley, Windsor, Va.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., Suffolk, Va.

TREASURER—J W. Barber, Esq., Cincinnati. Ohio.

With an Executive Committee of Seven eminent Christian men, the organization is quietly pursuing its work. Connected with it are eminent Ministers and Laymen who still retain connection with Evangelical Communions. The organization is not a sect, but only a body of lovers of Christian Union, men who have banded themselves together to work and pray for the fulfilment of the prayer of Jesus that all His disciples may be one. They do not separate themselves from any believer in Christ and receive to their fellowship all who believe in and love Him.

Any information desired, concerning this new organization, may be obtained by addressing the President or Corresponding Secretary, or Rev. W. C. McCune of the Executive Committee, at his place of address, Mt. Lookout, Hamilton Co., Ohio.

REVIVALS.

The Christians have been blessed during the year, with many precious revivals.

Rev. E. W. Beale, held a meeting at Damascus, Gates county, N. C., commencing the 1st of August, which resulted in the conversion of 35 persons.

Rev. M. B. Barrett, commenced a meeting at Mt. Carmel, Isle of Wight county, on the 1st of August, which continued seven days—26 conversions.

At Pleasant Grove, Halifax county, Va , 18 persons were converted the first week in August, at a meeting conducted by Rev. J. W. Wellons.

Ten or twelve persons were converted at a meeting held at Damascus, Orange county, N. C., the first week in August, conducted by Rev. D. A. Long, and others.

At a meeting conducted by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D , at Bethlehem, Nansemond county, embracing the second week in August, 57 persons were converted, 47 received into the fellowship of the Church, and 45 were baptized by immersion.

At Hayes' Chapel Wake county, N. C., the 1st week in August, 8 persons were converted, under the labors of Rev. W. G. Clements and others.

Rev. J. T. Whitley conducted a meeting at Spring Hill, Sussex county, Va., commencing the 2d Sunday in August, which resulted in the conversion of 11 persons.

At Berea, Nansemond county, Va , at a meeting embracing the 2d Sunday in August, conducted by Rev. E. W. Beale, 6 persons believed in Jesus, and were made happy.

At Oakland, Nansemond county, Va., on the 3d Sunday in August, 4 persons were converted—the meeting was conducted by Rev. E. W. Beale.

At Mt. Pisgah, Pittsylvania county, Va., a meeting was held by Rev. J. W. Pinnix, embracing the 2d Sunday in August—8 converts.

Rev. W. G. Clements held a meeting at Martha's Chapel, Chatham county, N. C. in August—4 persons professed faith in Christ.

Rev. J. W. Wellons held a meeting at Oak Level, Franklin county, N. C., in August, resulting in 6 conversions.

At Linville, Rockingham county, in August, Rev. Wm. T. Walker held a meeting which resulted in more than 35 conversions.

At a meeting held at Providence. Alamance county, in August, conducted by Rev. D. A. Long, about 40 persons were converted.

Rev. M. B. Barrett held a meeting at Barrett's in Southampton county, Va., embracing the 4th Sunday in August—20 persons converted.

Rev. C. A. Boon, had 10 accessions to the Church of his charge at Moore Union, Chatham county, N. C., the 2d Sunday in August.

Rev. M. L. Hurley, had 30 conversions at a meeting held by him at Union, Halifax county, Va., embracing the 2d Sunday in August.

Two persons were converted at O'Kelly's, Chatham county, N. C., in August, Rev. W. G. Clements, pastor.

Twelve persons were converted at New Elam, Chatham county, N. C., in August, under the labors of Rev. W. G. Clements.

At Hank's Chapel, early in August, a good meeting resulted in several conversions, and 14 were baptized by Rev. D. A Long.

Rev. Wm. S. Long held a meeting at Hines' Chapel, Guilford county, N. C., in September, resulting in 10 additions to the army of the Lord.

At Apple's Chapel, Guilford county, N. C., under the labors of Rev. W. S Long and others, 30 persons were converted in September.

At Antioch, Isle of Wight county, Va., Rev. J. T. Whitley conducted a meeting in September resulting in 34 conversions.

Rev. E. W. Beale, held a meeting at Cypress Chapel. Nansemond county, Va., the last of September—10 persons found peace in the exercise of faith.

At Mt. Zion, in Orange county, N. C., Rev. A. G. Anderson conducted a meeting in September, during which 7 persons were converted.

Rev. C J. Rolston, had a good meeting at Liberty Spring, Nansemond county, Va., in September, resulting in more than 30 conversions.

Early in October a precious revival season was enjoyed in the Christian Church, at Suffolk, Va.—19 persons converted. The meeting was conducted by the pastor of the Church, and the Editor of this ANNUAL.

We record these manifestations of God's goodness with much gladness of heart. The winning of souls to Christ is a great work.

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ANNUAL

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FOR

1876.

EDITED BY

Rev. J. T. WHITLEY.

VOLUME VI.

PRINTED FOR THE EDITOR,
AT THE
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1877.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.

THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met at the Christian Church in Suffolk on Wednesday, November 1st, 1876, in its fifty-sixth annual session.

In the absence of Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., President of the last session, who was confined to his room by severe illness, the Conference was called to order by Rev. J. T. Whitley, the Standing Secretary.

The roll of Ministers and Churches was called, and the following Elders and Lay Delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS.—C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, J. Pressley Barrett, E. W. Beale, J. T. Kitchen, J. T. Whitley.

LAY DELEGATES.—*Antioch*—W. H. Gay, A. M. Eley, John M. Gay. *Barretts*—B. B. Harris, T. W. Hines. *Bethlehem*—John R. Copeland, Richard Copeland. *Berea (Nansemond)*—Elisha Everett. *Cypress*—J. E. Riddick, Joseph Boothe, Dempsey Jones. *Damascus*—William Duke. *Holy Neck*—Abram Duke, W. H. Jones, Elisha Rawls. *Ivor*—C. R. Rawls. *Johnson's Grove*—J. W. Johnson, Petteway Johnson. *Liberty Spring*—Joel H. Brinkley. *Mt. Carmel*—I. W. Duck, G. M. D. Watkins. *Oakland*—George W. Whitley. *Providence*—J. W. Hyslop, G. D. DeBaun. *Suffolk*—T. J. Kilby, D. B. Dunbar.

[For a full list of Ministers and Delegates present, see Statistical Table on another page.]

A quorum being present, the Secretary announced the fact and proceeded to lead the Conference in devotional exercises. The 90th Psalm was read, a hymn was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. C. A. Apple.

An election for President was then held, which resulted in the choice of Rev. C. A. Apple. Bro. Apple made an appropriate address on taking the chair.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett was chosen Assistant Secretary.

Rev. G. E. Booker, pastor of the M. E. Church in Suffolk, being present, was brought forward by Rev. J. T. Whitley and introduced to the President, and by him introduced to the Conference.

Rev. C. J. Ralston appeared as a Fraternal Messenger from the Virginia Valley Conference, and was welcomed to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

The Annual Address was then delivered by Rev. E. W. Beale, in a most appropriate and impressive manner.

After the Address, business was resumed.

On motion, the Pastor and Delegates of the Suffolk Church were constituted a Committee on Religious Exercises.

On motion, Conference took a recess until 2½ o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

The President called the Conference to order.

The following delegates appeared and had their names enrolled: A. J. Rabey, from Liberty Spring; T. R. Gaskins, from Berea; and R. T. Vaughan, from Union.

Reports from the following Churches were presented and read: Antioch, Barretts, Bethlehem, Berea (Nansemond), Cypress, Hebron, Holy Neck, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Liberty, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Providence, Sharon, Suffolk, Union.

Reports were handed in and read from the following Ministers: C. A. Apple, S. S. Barrett, M. B. Barrett, J. Pressley Barrett, E. W. Beale, J. T. Kitchen, Robert Rawls, C. J. Ralston, and J. T. Whitley.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. J. Pressley Barrett to preach Wednesday night at 7½ o'clock.

The Rules of Order adopted by the Conference of 1872 were read and adopted for the government of this body.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was presented, and, on motion, laid on the table until Thursday.

The report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was also presented and laid on the table until Thursday.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, the Conference decided to meet each day at 9 A. M. and adjourn at 1½ o'clock P. M.

The Chair appointed as a Special Committee to examine the records of the local Churches, Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. J. T. Kitchen, and Bro. John M. Gay.

On motion, the Conference went into the selection of a place for the next session.

Mt. Carmel Church, Isle of Wight county, Va., was nominated and unanimously chosen.

On motion, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett was chosen to deliver the Annual Sermon.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Closing devotional exercises by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

SECOND DAY.

NOVEMBER 2, 1876.

Conference met, and was called to order by the President. A short time was spent in devotional exercises, led by the President.

The roll of members was called and a quorum ascertained to be present.

The President, in accordance with the Rules of Order, invited the Ministerial Students connected with the Conference to seats in the body as deliberative members.

Bro. H. T. West, Delegate from Spring Hill, arrived and was enrolled. Being tardy, he presented his excuse, and was excused.

At the request of Bro. J. R. Copeland, he was excused from further attendance as a Delegate from Bethlehem, and Bro. William Eley was substituted in his place.

The report on Sunday Schools, laid on the table yesterday, was taken up and read, as follows:

REPORT.

As your Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools, we report that there are about twenty two Schools connected with the Churches of this Conference. Every Church which maintains its organization has its Sabbath School, and some Churches are maintaining Missions in addition to the home Schools. The condition of the various Schools is highly prosperous. Within the past decade such progress has been made in our Sunday School methods and efficiency, that we are fully abreast of other religious bodies in respect to this great cause.

We urge upon pastors, superintendents and teachers the necessity of making themselves familiar with the best methods of work, in order to a higher degree of efficiency in their respective Schools. We strongly advise members of the Church, who desire to do good service for the Lord, to seek out destitute spots and establish Mission Schools, wherein may be gathered young and old and taught in that knowledge which makes "wise unto salvation."

As the Sunday School work among us is fully provided for by the annual Sunday School Convention, we deem it needless to say more in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. WHITLEY, *Chairman.*

The report was discussed by Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. E. W. Beale, William Duke, Rev. C. A. Apple, W. H. Gay, G. D. DeBaun, I. W. Duck, and Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, after which it was adopted.

The following resolution was presented and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are hereby tendered to Rev. E. W. Beale for the most appropriate and interesting Address delivered by him at the opening of the present annual session, and that a copy be requested of him for publication, by consent of the editor, in the *Christian Sun.*

On motion, Rev. D. A. Long, a Fraternal Messenger from

the North Carolina Conference, being present, was invited to a seat in the body. Bro. Long made a brief response.

The following Delegates arrived and took their seats: Jason Holland, of Hebron; Thomas Parker, of Bethlehem; and Irajah Langston, of Cypress.

These brethren were excused for their tardiness.

The report of the Church at Spring Hill was read.

On motion, the report on Temperance, laid over from yesterday, was taken up and read, as follows:

REPORT.

During the past year many noble men and women have arisen against this terror of terrors. Many enthusiastic meetings have been held in various parts of the Union for the promotion of Temperance principles. In two of these meetings—the Supreme Council of the Friends of Temperance, at Jackson, Miss., and the Temperance Congress at Philadelphia—we had an able representative in the person of Rev. Dr. Wellons, who is familiarly known in this great work as the Apostle of Temperance.

News from various sections of the country assures us that the cause is doing well. Your Committee think it their province to do little more in this report than to suggest:

That pastors and Churches should not countenance in any degree the use of ardent spirits as a beverage by Church members, since the tendency is to drunkenness and the example injurious to the cause of Christ.

That we lend our influence as a people to the Friends of Temperance, the Good Templars, and all other societies whose object is to instill and sustain Temperance principles.

We would also recommend pastors to give Temperance a modest yet permanent and prominent position in their pulpit discourses and in their pastoral labors in the social circle.

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
A. M. ELEY,
Committee.

The report was discussed by the Chairman of the Committee, by Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. E. W. Beale, and Rev. C. A. Apple, after which it was adopted.

On motion, the Chair appointed as a Special Committee on Publications, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, A. M. Eley, and Richard Copeland.

The Executive Committee made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

We, the Executive Committee, would report that we held a meeting in Suffolk on the 13th of March last, to attend to the following business:

1. Rev. Richard H. Costen was summoned before us to answer to charges which very seriously affected his moral and ministerial character. The said Costen sent us a letter surrendering all authority as a minister in the Eastern Virginia Conference; the Committee accepted said authority, and declared the said Richard H. Costen no longer a minister among us.

2. We also took into consideration some resolutions passed by Spring Hill Church with regard to a Centennial work for our Church. We decided to

make the Home Mission work the Centennial work of our Church, and formed a Home Mission Board at once, and the Board organized that day by the election of the proper officers, and we are glad to be able to report that considerable success has attended their labors in this direction, and we earnestly hope that this Conference will do all in its power to aid this great and glorious work.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

M. B. BARRETT,
J. T. KITCHEN,
Committee.

Rev. R. H. Holland, an Elder, arrived and took his place as a member of the body.

Rev. J. T. Whitley offered a preamble and series of resolutions, which, on motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, were taken up *seriatim*.

A lengthy discussion arose upon the resolutions, which was participated in by the mover, and by Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. E. W. Beale, and Rev. R. H. Holland, after which the preamble and resolutions were adopted *seriatim*, and afterwards as a whole. They are as follows:

Whereas, The chief business of this Conference at its annual sessions is to consider Education, Home Missions, Sabbath Schools, and kindred subjects, and lay plans for the promotion of the interests of the Churches in respect to these subjects; and

Whereas, Conference works mainly through its committees, appointed to consider the several subjects; and

Whereas, It is desirable that the work of the Conference shall be more efficiently done, and consequently that the several committees shall more clearly understand what work they are expected to do and shall address themselves more actively to their duties; therefore,

I. *Resolved*, That this Conference shall appoint the following Standing Committees of five members each: On Education, Home Missions, Sabbath Schools and Religious Literature.

II. *Resolved*, That these Committees be instructed as follows with reference to their work:

1. Education.—The Committee on Education, in addition to any other duties imposed by the Form of Government, is expected to direct its attention to two objects—the promotion of the general cause of Education within the boundaries of Conference, and the training of young men for the ministry. To accomplish these objects, this Committee should thoroughly organize itself for work and operate actively during the interim between the annual sessions. Subcommittees of one or more members each should be appointed to accomplish the following objects: (a) To circulate educational literature as far as possible among our people, provide for public addresses on Education at different points when deemed advisable, and co-operate with the Suffolk Collegiate Institute and other Schools among us in educating the masses of our people. (b) To search out personally and with the help of pastors and others, from among the Churches, such intelligent and pious youths and young men as aspire to the work of the ministry and give promise of usefulness, and to encourage them in their desire. (c) To solicit and collect from the Churches and elsewhere money, provisions and other things for the support of such youths and young men as are studying for the ministry among us and are unable to sustain themselves while in process of training. The Committee should use all means in its power

to foster general education, and to thoroughly train as many candidates as possible for preaching and pastoral work.

2. Home Missions.—The Committee on Home Missions, in addition to any other duties which may be imposed by the Form of Government, is expected to address itself diligently to the accomplishment of two things—the raising of a permanent missionary fund, and the establishment of missionary stations by sending out paid laborers to such points as it may be deemed expedient to occupy. The Committee should, therefore, so organize itself as, (a) To make a thorough canvass of the Churches with a view to accumulating the desired missionary fund, investing all funds collected so as to place them at the disposal of Conference in its missionary operations. (b) To ascertain the most inviting fields for missionary labor, and report them to Conference at its annual sessions, with such recommendations as may seem best. This Committee shall have control of all the missionary operations of Conference, except such matters as shall be reserved by the body for action at its annual sessions. Only the Conference in annual session shall have power to appoint missionaries and disburse missionary funds; but the Committee should obtain all information which will be valuable to the body, and submit it to Conference with recommendations.

3. Sabbath Schools.—The Committee on Sabbath Schools, in addition to any other duties imposed by the Form of Government, is expected to co-operate with the Sunday School Convention in promoting the efficiency of existing schools and establishing new ones at such points as it may be thought best to occupy. It should, therefore, be organized for active labor by the appointment of sub-committees, (a) To seek information as to the most improved and efficient methods of Sunday School work, and disseminate such information among the schools connected with the Conference. (b) To ascertain the best places to establish new schools, and to secure their establishment.

4. Religious Literature.—The Committee on Religious Literature should devote its energies to disseminating good literature among our people and in such other places as may be possible. It should organize in such a way as (a) To secure the circulation of our denominational paper in all the Churches —if possible, in every family. (b) To have published and distributed from time to time such tracts, papers and other literature as will, in their judgment, promote our interests as a Conference.

III. *Resolved*, That, in order to give proper consideration to the reports of these Committees, and to take careful action upon their recommendations, the Committees be required to report at the following times: The Committee on Sabbath Schools, the first day of the session; the Committee on Religious Literature, on the morning of the second day; the Committee on Home Missions, on the morning of the third day; and the Committee on Education, on the morning of the fourth day. The other business of Conference shall be so disposed of as not to interfere with the full consideration of these reports, which shall have all the precedence usually yielded to special orders of the day.

An application was read from a Church organized by Rev. C. J. Ralston at Eure's Cross Roads for reception into the Conference.

On motion, the Church was received and the Delegates admitted to seats in the body.

Bro. M. H. Holland, a Delegate from Hebron, appeared and took his seat.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow. Prayer by Rev. C. J. Ralston.

THIRD DAY.

NOVEMBER 3, 1876.

The President called the body to order and conducted devotional services.

The proceedings of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Rev. R. C. Tuck, an Elder in the North Carolina Christian Conference, being present, was, on motion, invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member.

Rev. J. N. Manning, an Elder in the Conference, arrived and took his seat.

Col. Alexander Savage, Treasurer of the Conference, appeared and was enrolled a member of the body.

Rev. M. B. Barrett, chairman of the Special Committee appointed to examine the records of the local Churches, offered the following report, which, after some explanations, was adopted:

REPORT.

We, the Committee appointed to examine the records of the Churches, would report that we have examined the records of the following Churches, viz.: Antioch, Barretts, Cypress, Holy Neck, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Hebron, Spring Hill, and Suffolk, and find them kept, for the most part, neatly and correctly; some are deficient in some particulars. We will not censure them, but will call the attention of Secretaries to these things, and try and have them corrected.

The following Churches did not send their records, viz.: Bethlehem, Berea (Nansemond), Berea (Norfolk), Damascus, Jerusalem, Liberty, Providence, Sharon, and Union. Some of these Churches have been reported for neglect of duty so often that we do not know what to say of them in this report. We would respectfully refer them to this body for further action.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. BARRETT,
J. T. KITCHEN,
J. M. GAY,
Committee.

This report was earnestly discussed by the Chairman, by Rev. D. A. Long, Bro. J. W. Johnson, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. E. W. Beale, and Col. A. Savage, after which it was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Education made the following report, which, after a short discussion, was unanimously adopted:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to report as follows:

1. We deem that, perhaps, sufficient information relative to the "Suffolk Collegiate Institute" has been given to you in the communication addressed to your body by Rev. Dr. Wellons, Chairman of the Committee, but, unfortunately, unable to act as such, owing to prostration through illness. We hope

that this school may continue to prove a blessing to the Church and the community in the time to come.

2. We hope and believe that our people are becoming more and more alive to the importance of a higher state of intellectual culture than has hitherto been known among us.

3. Bros. John U. Newman, Charles P. Norfleet and Charles W. Cain have been before us, and have been examined as to their progress in preparation for the ministry. We hope Bros. Norfleet and Newman may be enabled to pursue their studies at the "Suffolk Collegiate Institute" during the ensuing Conference year. It has appeared best to the Committee that Bro. Cain be suspended from his connection with the Ministerial Class until such time as the Committee shall see reason to believe that there is hope of his usefulness in the ministry.

4. Bro. N. B. H. Munford, without proper consultation with the Committee, has retired from the class for the present, with the view, however, as we learn, of returning as soon as he may be able to acquire a sufficient sum to enable him to pursue his studies without further burdening the Conference.

5. Bro. Harrison H. Butler has been before us in the capacity of a candidate for licensure as a probationer to preach the Gospel. Believing that there may be some hope of Bro. Butler's usefulness in this capacity, we hereby recommend that license be granted him for that purpose, and that he continue to prosecute his studies in connection with such ministerial duties as he may have the opportunity of performing.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. APPLE,
J. N. MANNING,
E. W. BEALE,
J. T. WHITLEY,
Committee.

The President announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

On Education.—Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. R. H. Holland. [Conference added Rev. C. A. Apple as Chairman of this Committee.]

Home Missions.—Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev. M. B. Barrett, D. B. Dunbar, John M. Gay.

Religious Literature.—Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev. John T. Kitchen, Rev. R. H. Holland, R. H. Rawls, A. M. Eley.

Sunday Schools.—Rev. John T. Kitchen, Dr. R. C. Everett, Rev. S. S. Barrett, H. H. Butler, John T. Harris.

Executive Committee.—Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. J. N. Manning.

Special Committee to District the Conference.—Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, I. W. Duck, Rev. E. W. Beale, T. J. Kilby, Rev. J. T. Kitchen.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

Whereas, Rev. Dr. W. B. Wellons, whose valuable and important services have been given to the Church for more than a quarter of a century, and whose heart and soul have been wholly absorbed in the spread of liberal and Biblical Christianity, giving an impetus to religious truth and the progress of evangelical union heretofore unknown among us, is prostrated by lingering illness, preventing his valuable and much-desired presence with this body; therefore,

Resolved, That Conference feels most sensibly and painfully the absence of Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., and we do hereby express our warmest and heartiest sympathy for our dear brother in his protracted sickness, and do pray to the Father of all mercy to have him continually in His holy keeping, and if consistant with His divine will to lengthen his life for the joy of the Church, and the glory of His excellent name.

The report of the Church at Damascus was presented and read.

The Committee on Home Missions offered a report which was discussed briefly, and adopted as follows:

REPORT.

The Committe on Home Missions submit the following: In consultation with the pastors and the delegates from the various Churches composing the Conference, we assertain that the following arrangements for pastoral service for the coming year have been perfected:

Suffolk and Antioch—J. T. Whitley.
Barrett's, Mt. Carmel and Ivor—M. B. Barrett.
Berea (Nasemond), Cypress, Oakland and Bethlehem—E. W. Beale.
Berea (Norfolk), Providence and Sharon—R. C. Tuck.
Hebron, Liberty Spring, Eure's Cross Roads and Damascus—C. J. Ralston.
Holy Neck—C. A. Apple.
Liberty and Union—J. T. Kitchen.
Johnson's Grove and Spring Hill—J. Pressley Barrett.

We respectfully submit the Church at Jerusalem to the careful consideration of Conference.

I. W. DUCK,
A. SAVAGE,
Committee.

On motion, the Secretary of Conference was instructed to append a foot-note to the blanks sent out annually to the Churches for their reports, reminding the Secretaries of the Churches of the duty of sending up their records to Conference on the first day of the session, for inspection.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett presented the following resolution, which, after earnest speeches by the mover, and by Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. J. T. Whitley, I. W. Duck, and Rev. E. W. Beale, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this body appoint a Committee of five, any three of whom may act, to district the Conference into suitable groups of Churches, with a view to holding meetings every fifth Saturday and Sunday in behalf of the work of the various Committees, and also to make all necessary arrangements as to places of meeting and topics of discussion.

Rev. S. S. Barrett, an Elder in the Conference, appeared and took his seat.

Dr. O. H. Baird, Delegate from Spring Hill, appeared and took his seat. He was excused for tardiness.

On motion, reports of Fraternal Messengers were called for.

Rev. C. A. Apple offered his excuse for not visiting the North Carolina Conference; also, Rev. M. B. Barrett did the same.

Rev. E. W. Beale reported that he attended the North Carolina Conference, and had a most delightful time.

Rev. J. T. Whitley reported that he attended the Virginia Valley Conference.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett also reported his visit to this Conference.

Bro. Whitley reported that he could not visit the Colored Conference on account of a pressure of work.

On motion, the following brethren were elected Fraternal Messengers to the North Carolina Conference: Revs. E. W. Beale, J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple.

To the Valley Conference—Revs. J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple, J. T. Kitchen, and J. Pressley Barrett.

Rev. J. T. Whitley read a letter from Rev. Maurice J. Langhorne, of the Virginia Methodist Protestant Conference, expressing the fraternal feelings of that body to this Conference.

Rev. C. A. Apple, President of this body, was instructed to reply to the above named letter, bearing the Christian greetings of this Conference to the Methodist Protestant Conference.

Rev. J. T. Whitley read a communication from Rev. Dr. Wellons in regard to the financial condition of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute.

On motion, Conference decided to make an effort at once to raise the amount necessary to relieve the Suffolk Collegiate Institute from its financial embarrassment.

The effort was made with complete success.

The following brethren were granted leave of absence during the remainder of the session: William Duke, A. M. Eley, and O. H. Baird.

Conference then adjourned. Devotional exercises by Rev. J. Pressley Barrett.

FOURTH DAY.

November 4, 1876.

Conference met, with the President in the chair, and was opened with devotional exercises; prayer by Rev. W. Beale.

Proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. S. S. Barrett brought to the attention of the Conference the condition of the Christian Church in Berkley, asking Conference to take some steps to purchase this property, and that trustees be appointed. The matter was referred to the Committee on Home Missions.

Deacon John T. Harris, of Spring Hill, was invited to a seat in the body as a deliberate member.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, from the Committee on Publications, offered the following

REPORT:

Your Committee desire to commend most fully to the confidence and earnest support of our people the *Christian Sun*. It is a faithful exponent of the principles of the Christian Church, and thoroughly identified with all her interests.

The continued illness of Dr. Wellons, the former editor and publisher, has necessitated his giving up this important work of the Church. But we are glad to state that Messrs. Dunbar & Whitley have become proprietors, with Rev. J. T. Whitley as Editor-in-chief. In this, they have undertaken a great work for the Church—a work, the responsibility of which, few others would have been willing to assume. Now, we most earnestly call upon our ministers and laymen to rally to the support of this paper. If we as a people will do our part toward sustaining this enterprise, it will be a grand success and a great blessing to our cause.

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
RICHARD COPELAND,
A. M. ELEY,
Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee on Religious Exercises made the following announcements for preaching on the Sabbath:

Christian Church—11 A. M., Rev. C. A. Apple; 7 P. M., Rev. D. A. Long. *Methodist Church*—11 A. M., Rev. D. A. Long; 7 P. M., Rev. E. W. Beale. *Baptist Church*—11 A. M., Rev. M. Barrett.

Rev. S. S. Barrett was announced to preach in the Christian Church to-night.

On motion, the Secretary of Conference was instructed to publish the proceedings of this Conference in such permanent form as may be practicable and expedient.

The following resolution, offered by Bro. J. M. Gay, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the Suffolk Church and the friends who have so hospitably entertained the Delegates and visitors to the Conference; also, to the pastors and members of other Churches in town for the use of their respective houses of worship on the Sabbath.

The Conference then adjourned to meet at Mt. Carmel Church, Isle of Wight county, Va., on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November, 1877, at 11 o'clock A. M.

C. A. APPLE, PRESIDENT.

J. T. WHITLEY, *Secretary.*

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, *Assistant Secretary.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Members rep't'd last session.	Received since.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Sunday Sch'ls.	Connected with Sunday Sch'ls.	Amount Paid Pastor.	To Educate Y'ung Preach'rs	For Other Purposes.	Whole Amount.	Value of Ch'ch Property.
Antioch	J. T. Whitley	J. M. Gay, W. H. Gay, A. M. Eley	551	12	3	4	3	7	546	1	216	$600	$54	$23 00	$677 00	$2,000
Barretts	M. B. Barrett	B. B. Harris, T. W. Hines	182	15	...	...	1	7	189	1	85	100		15 00	115 00	1,000
Bethlehem	W. B. Wellons.	Richard Copeland, John R. Copeland, Thos. Parker,	236	3	2	1	2	...	234	1	38	150	10	12 00	172 00	500
Berea (Nans'd)	E. W. Beale	A. Savage, Elisha Everett	81	7	...	5	...	...	83	1	50	175	35	49 00	259 00	1,400
Berea (Norfolk)	R. C. Tuck	No Delegate present. No report			...	...	...	...		..						
Cypress	E. W. Beale.	Irajah Langstun, Jos. Boothe, J. E. Riddick, D. Jones,	324		2	2	5	31	284	1	76	300	15	33 00	348 00	1,500
Damascus	E. W. Beale.	William Duke	160	38	1	...	3	3	191	...		200	10	85 00	295 00	1,500
Eure's X Roads	C. J. Ralston	J. H. Sparkman, Nathaniel Eure.			...	...	...	...	63	..						
Hebron	C. J. Ralston	M. H. Holland, Jason Holland	123	30	...	2	.	1	150	1		100		10 00	110 00	1,000
Holy Neck	C. A. Apple.	Abram Duke, W. H. Jones, Elisha Rawls,	390	30	1	...	4	...	415	1	92	200		50 00	250 00	1,500
Ivor	M. B. Barrett	C. R. Rawls	40	6	...	2	1	6	37	1	34	75	5	16 00	96 00	800
Jerusalem	No Pastor.	No Delegate		..	..	...	...	...	25	...						800
Johnson's Gr've	J. P. Barrett	J. W. Johnson, Petteway Johnson	61	1	2	...	...	3	57	1	39	75		6 00	81 00	1,000
Liberty	J. T. Kitchen	No Delegate present	47		...	...	1	...	46	...		100		20 00	120 00	1,000
Liberty Spring	C. J. Ralston	A. J. Rabey, J. H. Brinkley	103	12	2	5	...	...	108	1	73	100		65 00	165 00	1,000
Mt. Carmel	M. B. Barrett	I. W. Duck, G. M. D. Watkins	141	22	...	...	2	1	163	1	134	100	10	20 50	130 50	1,000
Oakland	E. W. Beale	George W. Whitley	59	14	...	1	...	...	72	1	46	131		30 00	161 00	1,000
Providence	No Pastor	Jno. W. Hyslop, G. D. DeBaun	50		1	...	2	...	50	1	59					1,000
Sharon	R. C. Tuck	No Delegate present	38	6	...	1	...	...	44	1	56	42		20 00	62 00	300
Spring Hill	J. P. Barrett	H. T. West	157	2	1	...	2	2	154	2		200	15	14 50	229 50	1,000
Suffolk	W. B. Wellons.	T. J. Kilby, D. B. Dunbar	167		1	4	3	4	155	1	156	700	20	250 00	970 00	3,000
Union	Robert Rawls	R. T. Vaughan.	71		...	1	3	...	68	1	30					1,000
			2981	198	16	28	32	65	3134	18	1284	$3,348	174	$719 00	$4,391 00	$23,300

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

NAME.	CHURCHES IN CHARGE.	Sermons Preached.	Lectures Delivered.	Prayer Meetings Held.	Conversions in Charge.	Pastoral Visits Paid.	Funerals.	Marriages.	SALARY.
C. A. Apple	Holy Neck	30	40	—	50	50	8	3	$230 00
J. Pressley Barrett	Johnson's Grove and Spring Hill	57	42	10	8	125	3	7	300 00
M. B. Barrett	Barretts, Mt. Carmel, and Ivor	60	10	12	71	—	12	15	275 00
E. W. Beale	Cypress, Oakland, Berea, and Damascus.	70	20	40	64	100	7	5	700 00
J. T. Kitchen	Liberty	50	20	—	—	60	1	3	100 00
C. J. Ralston	Liberty Spring and Hebron	200	10	32	216	100	25	20	250 00
Robert Rawls	Union	20	—	25	6	—	1	2	23 85
J T. Whitley	Antioch	100	40	35	31	50	14	11	600 00
		587	182	154	446	485	71	76	$2,478 85

NOTE.—Several Ministers belonging to the Conference either made no written report at all, or reported in such a form that they cannot be represented in a tabulated statement.—SECRETARY.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

SALEM CHAPEL, FORSYTHE COUNTY, N. C.,
November 17, 1876.

THE NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE began its fifty-first annual session here to.day.

The following Ministers and Lay Delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS—S. Apple, J. W. Wellons, D. A. Long, J. N. Farrell, D. T. Deanes, J. W. Pinnix, W. G. Clements, A. G. Anderson, W. H. Franks, W. S. Long, M. L. Hurley, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Hatch.

LICENTIATES—S. I. Ellis, M. L. Winston, J. W. Holt, A. F. Iseley.

LAY DELEGATES—B. J. Blackley, Wm. P. Young. P. R. Harden, J. A. Turrentine, P. A. Long, D. F. Way, F. McKaughan, D. Huffines, Isaac W. Pritchard, E. S. Hudson, J. C. Fireshett, W. L. Moring, E. H. Holder, J. W. Sharp, Wm. Lynch, J. G. Langston, Asa Klapp, W. A. Brown, J. B. Stone, E. D. Hines, A. A. Farmer, W. D. Mills, J. B. Davis, John H. Fleming, David F. Jones, J. D. Gunter, Eli Iseley, Philip Waynock, Harden Hazlipp, Joel Fulton, M. Womble, R. P. Smith, J. H. Wilborn, John G. Garrison, J. H. Foster, R. W. Fitch, R. T. Wilkins, W. H. Buntin, T. J. Bland, Gaston Murray, H. A. N. Apple, R. F. Green.

Religious services by Rev. S. Apple.

Rev. W. S. Long was chosen President, and Rev. J. W. Holt Assistant Secretary.

The Fraternal Messengers from the Eastern Virginia Conference, Revs. C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley, and E. W. Beale, were invited to seats in the body as deliberative members. They responded in short and appropriate speeches.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. W. W. Staley was excused from delivering the Annual Sermon.

On motion, Conference resolved to meet each day at 9½ o'clock A. M., adjourn at 12 M.; meet at 1½ o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

The Rules of Order for the last session were adopted for this.

On motion of Rev. D. T. Deanes, Rev. Pinkney Oliver, of the Missionary Baptist Church, was invited to a seat as a deliberative member.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Pinnix and Bros. Harden Hazlipp and Joel Fulton were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

On motion, Revs. S. Apple and W. G. Clements and Bro. P. R. Harden were appointed a Committee on Periodicals.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Hatch was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Sunday Schools, to fill the place made vacant by Rev. W. W. Staley.

On motion, the Fraternal Messengers appointed at the last session of Conference gave an account of their visits. Revs. W. S. Long, S. Apple, J. W. Wellons and J. N. Farrell were excused for not visiting the Conferences which they had been appointed to visit.

Rev. W. G. Clements was excused for not visiting the Colored Conference.

Pending the appointment of Fraternal Messengers, Conference adjourned. Religious services by Rev. A. G. Anderson.

SECOND DAY.

November 18, 1876.

Conference convened, the President in the chair. Religious services by Rev. C. A. Apple.

Proceedings of yesterday read and approved.

On motion, Bros. J. Q. Barham and Spencer Truitt were excused for tardiness, and their names enrolled as Delegates.

The following were chosen Fraternal Messengers:

To the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference—Revs. S. Apple, W. G. Clements, and J. N. Farrell.

Deep River (N. C.) Conference—Revs W. S. Long, J. W. Hatch, M. L. Hurley, and J. W. Pinnix.

Virginia Valley Conference—Revs. A. Apple and J. W. Holt.

Methodist Protestant Conference—Revs. J. W. Wellons and D. T. Deanes.

Methodist Episcopal Conference—Revs. D. A. Long, A. G. Anderson, and M. L. Hurley.

Rev. W. S. Long was appointed to attend the Colored Christian Conference and give them such aid as he may be able in the better organization of their body.

The Rules of Order were then read by the Secretary.

The Committee on Religious Exercises then reported preaching at this place to-day at 12 o'clock M., by Rev. J. W. Wellons; to-morrow (Sabbath), 11 o'clock A. M., Rev. J. T. Whitley; 1 o'clock P. M., Rev. E. W. Beale. Adopted.

The Letters from the Churches were then called for and read.

Conference then went into the selection of a place for its next session to be held. Pleasant Grove (Va.), Mt. Auburn, and Damascus were put in nomination. Pleasant Grove, Virginia, was selected.

A motion to change the time for the meeting of Conference was laid on the table.

Rev. W. S. Long was chosen to deliver the next annual address or sermon before this Conference.

On motion, Revs. S. Apple, A. G. Anderson, and W. S. Long were appointed a Committee on Memoirs.

Rev. J. T. Whitley then made a few remarks in behalf of the *Christian Sun*.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met, the President in the chair.

On motion, Rev. D. T. Deanes and Bros. J. H. Fleming and P. R. Harden were appointed a Committee on Church Records.

On motion, the hour of 9½ o'clock Monday was set apart for Ministerial Reports.

On motion, Conference adjourned, in order to allow the Home Mission Society to meet.

THIRD DAY.

NOVEMBER 20, 1876.

The President in the chair. Religious services by Rev. W. G. Clements.

The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

Ministerial Reports were called for. The following responded: S. Apple, W. S. Long, W. H. Franks, J. W. Wellons, John N. Farrell, A. G. Anderson, D. A. Long, D. T. Deanes, W. G. Clements, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Pinnix, J. W. Hatch, M. L. Hurley, J. W. Holt, S. I. Ellis, A. F. Iseley, M. L. Winston.

On motion, Rev. J. A. Scott, a Fraternal Messenger from the Deep River (N. C.) Conference, was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member. He made a short and appropriate address.

Rev. D. A. Long reported that he had been unable to collect anything for the payment of Rev. W. S. Long for the money spent for the education of Ministerial Students. After remarks, his report was adopted.

The Committee on Education then presented the following

REPORT:

Your Committee on Education regret to announce to you that no effort has been made to establish in this Conference schools of a denominational character. All will, we think, admit that we ought to have both a male and female school of high grade under our control. We must either establish such schools of our own, or have our children grow up in ignorance, or be trained in schools and under the influence of other denominations. Every practical, thinking man among us knows well that no denomination can secure any great measure of success which does not educate and train its own children. We trust that something will soon be done towards accomplishing this most necessary and desirable end.

There are schools within our bounds conducted by members of this Conference, which, in a great measure, supply our wants as a denomination. We would present the claims of these schools to this Conference.

We have examined for licensure David Frederick Jones, and find him well prepared in the most essential branches of learning required in our Form of Government, but somewhat deficient in others; we do, however, recommend him for licensure at this Conference.

Two brethren, J. W. Holt and S. I. Ellis, have been examined as to their qualification for ordination. J. W. Holt comes well up to our standard, and we recommend him for ordination. Bro. Ellis is not so well qualified, and we trust he will continue to labor on as he is a while longer, and seek to prepare himself thoroughly for the work.

There are other young men belonging to this class, who have not been before the Committee during this Conference. One of these is in Trinity College, one at the University, and others in schools at other places or at work.

Bro. A. F. Iseley is recommended by two Churches to this Committee for ordination, but has concluded not to present himself at this time for examination.

Bro. Henry Fulton appeared before the Committee, but declined an examination; we have nothing, therefore, to report in his case.

We desire to call the attention of the brethren to the importance of looking out from among the Churches such young men as seem prompted by the Holy Spirit to enter the gospel ministry, and give them the encouragement they seem to require. None but young men of good natural abilities and of undoubted piety should be brought forward for such a responsible and holy calling.

We further recommend to the Churches and Pastors the great necessity of providing suitable work for the young men who have been granted license to preach; and we do urge these young men to confer with their brethren, and especially with this Committee, relative to their studies and engagements.

W. S. LONG,
A. G. ANDERSON,
S. APPLE.

After earnest remarks by Revs. W. S. Long, A. G. Anderson, J. T. Whitley, E. W. Beale, and others, the report was adopted.

On motion, it was decided to license Bro. D. F. Jones immediately after Conference assembles this afternoon.

On motion, it was decided to ordain Bro. J. W. Holt to-morrow at the commencement of the afternoon session.

The Committee on Temperance then read the following

REPORT:

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following as their report:

While much has been accomplished in restraining men from the dangerous practice of meddling with strong drink; and while Temperance organizations, encouraged by many good men everywhere, have, in a measure, counteracted the great evils of Intemperance; still we find that strong drink is, as it has ever been, the bane of vital piety and exemplary Christianity, and that there is still need of earnest effort in order to avert the moral desolation that is fostered in the world by the use of strong drink.

The remedy that we propose, in order to rid the Church and the world of this evil, is personal influence, united with public opinion, and the influence of Christianity.

In view of the fact that Temperance is a Christian virtue, and the declaration of the Sacred Scriptures that "no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven," we recommend for the adoption of this body the following delarations:

1. That the ministers composing this Conference endeavor to free the Church entirely from this evil, by proclaiming Temperance from the sacred desk as one of the most important virtues in the category of Christian graces.

2. That any Church member using ardent spirits as a beverage, manufacturing, or trafficking in the same, should be considered as walking contrary to the plain teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and should receive the prompt admonition of the Church to change his dangerous course.

3. That any Church member drinking to excess, or becoming intoxicated, should be treated as a disorderly member.

4. That we recognize in the Temperance cause a demand for earnest, life-long work in behalf of mankind.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. HOLT,
P. T. KLAPP,
Committee.

After remarks had been made by Revs. W. G. Clements and J. W. Holt, the time for adjournment arrived.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference reassembled, with the President in the chair.

The licensure of Bro. D. F. Jones was attended to in due form.

The Report on Temperance was then taken up and discussed by Revs. P. T. Klapp, S. I. Ellis, J. N. Farrell, M. L. Winston, Bro. B. J. Blackley, and Rev. A. G. Anderson.

The report was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

Rev. P. T. Klapp then announced that the Home Missionary Society would hold a mass meeting in this house to-night.

The Committee on Memoirs then reported the following:

REPORT.

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, during the past year, to take from this world Rev. Alfred Iseley, a member of this Conference, and

Whereas, It is desirable that an event of so much importance should be properly noted and duly recorded; and, that this Conference may give expression of its high appreciation of him who is no more amongst us, we present the following:

Brother Iseley was born in what was then Orange (now Alamance) county N. C., Oct. 1813, and died Sept. 1876. Consequently he was within a few days of 63 years of age. He commenced his ministerial career in 1834, and filled many of the most important positions of trust and duty, connected with our church.

But few men have ever persevered more steadily, met difficulties more firmly, and preached the gospel more faithfully and successfully than he.

As a feeble tribute to the memory of one so worthy of our highest regard and who occupied such a prominent position in this Conference, we recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1*st Resolved*, That in the death of Rev. Alfred Iseley, the church has lost one of her most faithful and efficient ministers and this Conference one of its most useful members.

2*d Resolved*, That we deeply deplore the loss of one who has so long and faithfully stood shoulder to shoulder with us in working in the cause of the Master.

Yet we bow in submission to the Providence of God, feeling that whilst our loss is great, his is the gain, and that our beloved brother now rests from his labors and his works follow him.

3*d. Resolved*, That this Conference tender to the bereaved family of our brother, its sympathy and condolence, and that a copy of these preamble and resolutions be furnished them by the Secretary.

S. APPLE,
A. G. ANDERSON,
W. S. LONG,
Committee.

After touching and appropriate remarks by Revs. S. Apple, A. G. Anderson, P. T. Klapp, W. G. Clements, S. I. Ellis, J. W. Holt, D. T. Deanes, J. W. Wellons, and W. S. Long, the report was unanimously adopted.

On motion, Bros. Asa Klapp and J. Q. Barham were excused from further attendance upon this session of Conference.

Rev. J. W. Wellons then reported that the Committee appointed to settle the difficulty in regard to the Church at Newbern had not been able to make an amicable adjustment of the difficulty.

The Committee on Sunday Schools then made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Sunday Schools report with pleasure that most of the Churches within the bounds of this Conference have had Sunday Schools either a part or the whole of the past Conference year. We would recommend:

1. That the Superintendents be elected by the Churches.

2. The adoption of the International Lessons published in the CHRISTIAN SUN.

3. That as many schools be organized as possible in communities where they have none.

4. That every school procure if possible a library and the necessary apparatus for black-board exercises.

5. That the schools continue all the year, where it is possible to keep them up.

6. That pastors do all they can to get parents and guardians to take their children and wards to the Sunday School.

J. W. HATCH,
M. L. HURLEY,
Committee.

This report was discussed by Rev. J. T. Whitley, Bro. D. F. Jones, and Rev. J. W. Wellons, after which it was adopted.

Conference then adjourned until 6½ o'clock P. M. Devotional exercises by Rev. D. A. Long.

EVENING SESSION.

Conference in session. The President in the chair. The Committee on Home Missions then handed in the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions would submit the following:

The Churches are so remotely situated that it is impossible to supply them with ministerial aid in many places. We would recommend our ministers to aid the weak churches as much as possible. We would furthermore recommend that Conference take some step to organize a church in the city of Raleigh. The following churches are without pastors, Liberty, Midway, Brandon's Chapel, Reaces, Mt. Bethel, Pleasant Hill (Chatham), Antioch, Bethel, Moore Union, Bell's.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. WELLONS,
W. G. CLEMENTS,
J. W. HATCH,
Committee.

After short speeches by Revs. S. Apple, J. N. Farrell, W. G. Clements and others, the report was adopted.

On motion, a Standing Committee was appointed on Religious Literature.

Conference adjourned. Religious service by Rev. M. L. Winston.

FOURTH DAY.

NOVEMBER 21, 1876.

Conference in session. The President in the chair. Religious exercises by Rev. A. F. Iseley. Proceedings of yesterday read and approved.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees:

Education.—Rev. A. G. Anderson, Rev. Solomon Apple, Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. W. W. Staley. Conference added Rev. W. S. Long as Chairman.

Executive Committee.—Rev. J. W. Wellons, Rev. W. G. Clements, Alfred Moring, Rev. J. W. Hatch.

Home Missions.—Rev. D. A. Long, Rev. W. G. Clements, P. R. Harden, J. A. Turrentine, J. M. Moring, J. Morgan Smith.

Sunday Schools.—Rev. P. T. Klapp, Rev. J. W. Pinnix, S. I. Ellis, J. D. Gunter, D. F. Jones.

Temperance.—Rev. J. W. Holt, Rev. J. N. Farrell, Rev. D. T. Deanes, Rev. A. Apple, B. J. Blackley.

Religious Literature.—Rev. W. W. Staley, Rev. M. L. Hurley, J. A. Turrentine, A. F. Iseley, M. L. Winston, R. T. Wilkins.

The following elders were announced as a Presbytery to ordain Bro. J. W. Holt: A. G. Anderson, Solomon Apple, J. W. Wellons.

Rev. J. W. Wellons then made the following report which was adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee appointed at your last session to settle the matter between the colored congregation at Newbern and the Rev. Mr. Forbes, the purchaser of the church property at Newbern, submit the following:

We have not been able to settle the matter, but have had to employ counsel. Rev. Mr. Forbes demands a return of the money, as we have failed to put him in quiet possession. We await the decision of this body before taking any steps in the matter. Respectfully summitted,

J. W. WELLONS,
D. A. LONG,
Committee.

On motion, the same Committee was re-appointed with full power to make a final settlement of all the difficulties in regard to the church property at Newbern. Also that this Conference would pledge itself to pay all expenses which the Committee might think necessary to be made. And that their action be final.

The Committee on Periodcals then made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Periodicals beg leave to report:

That we deem it proper to urge upon Conference the importance of using freely the powerful agency of the press in support of the principles that we hold dear as a people, and to aid in the various enterprises of the church.

We are pleased to say that the CHRISTIAN SUN, the acknowledged organ of the Christians South, is, in the opinion of your Committee, a true exponent of our principles and worthy of the patronage of our entire membership.

We therefore recommend to Conference an increased effort to sustain its publishers by a largely increased patronage, throughout the bounds of this Conference.

SOLOMON APPLE,
P. R. HARDEN,
W. G. CLEMENTS,
Committee.

After remarks, by Revs. J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple and others, the report was adopted.

On motion of Rev. P. T. Klapp, Conference tendered its thanks to the community about Salem Chapel, for hospitality; to the people of Kernersville, for the same reason; and to the various Railroads for passing members of Conference at reduced fare.

Bro. P. R. Harden offered the following which was adopted;

Resolved, That we request the following local churches to raise the amounts mentioned at the first Quarterly Conference of the present Conference year, and forward the same to the Secretary of the Conference who will receipt them for the same, and pay over to the Treasurer of the Conference, who will reimburse those to whom Conference is now indebted: Good Hope, $10; Oak Level, $5; Antioch, $5; Bethel, $2; New Providence, $20; Pleasant Hill, $5; Liberty School House, $5; Damascus, $10; Mt. Pisgah, $5; Hayes' Chapel, $5; Mt. Zion's, $5; Catawba Springs, $10; Apple's Chapel, $10; Martha's Chapel, $5; Hines' Chapel, $10; Pleasant Grove, $20; Hank's Chapel, $15; Liberty, $5; Christian Chapel, $5; Mt. Auburn, $15; Moore Union, $5; Shallow Well, $10; Bethlehem, $10; Salem Chapel, $10; New Elam, $5; Wake Chapel, $10; Union, (N. C.) $20; Union, (Va.) $15; Zion, $5; Mt. Bethel, $5.

The Committee on Church Records then offered the following which was adopted:

REPORT.

We the Committee on Church Records, have received and examined the records of the following churches: Pleasant Hill (Chatham), Salem Chapel, Hanks Chapel, Mount Bethel, Hines' Chapel, New Providence, Union (Va.), Martha's Chapel, Shallow Well, and Liberty School House. In all of these we find improvement. We discover, however, errors in the records of the Churches at Martha's Chapel, Union (Va.) Shallow Well and Hanks Chapel —errors best corrected, we think, by calling the attention of the delegates of those churches thereto. This we have done.

We find such a lack of uniformity in keeping our church records that we recommend the appointment of a Committee to prepare a blank form for the recording of minutes of Quarterly Conferences and keeping church rolls; the Committee to report at our next Conference, with a view to furnishing of copies to the Secretaries of the Churches. Respectfully submitted,

D. T. DEANES,
P. R. HARDEN,
J. H. FLEMING,
Committee.

The following, offered by Bro. P. R. Harden, was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That this Conference has learned with feelings of sincere sorrow, of the long and painful affliction of our highly esteemed and much beloved brother, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., of Suffolk, Va., whose presence and counsels we have so often enjoyed.

Resolved, That this Conference tender our beloved brother assurances of our sympathy for him in his affliction, and our prayers for his speedy restoration to health.

Resolved, That we spend a season of special prayer in behalf of our dear brother.

The chair then appointed the following as the Committee to carry out the suggestions of the Committee on Church Records : Revs. J. W. Holt, W. G. Clements, W. W. Staley and R. C. Scott.

On motion it was decided that the Executive Committee be ordered to look after those ministers who have failed to report themselves to this Conference, and inform them that a failure to comply with our Government will cause them to be dealt with as disorderly members.

On motion, it was decided to leave the arrangement for the publication of the minutes in the hands of the Secretary.

The hour having arrived, the Ordaining Presbytery ordained Rev. J. W. Holt in due form.

On motion of Rev. D. A. Long, Conference adjourned to meet at Pleasant Grove, Halifax county, Va., on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in November, 1877, at 11 o'clock A. M. Religious services by Rev. S. Apple, who offered a special prayer in behalf of Dr. Wellons.

W. S. LONG, President.

D. A. Long, *Secretary.*
J. W. Holt, *Assistant Secretary.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Reported last session.	Received since.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole number of Communicants.	Sunday Schools.	Connected with the Sunday School.	Amount paid the Pastor	For other purposes.	Whole amount	Value of Church Property.
Damascus	W. S. Long	93	4	..	..	1	..	97	1	67	$83	$..	$83	$500
Hines' Chapel	" "	69	3	..	..	..	..	72	1	57	60		60	400
Zion	P. T. Klapp	126	25	1	..	1	..	149	1	56	60	...	60	300
Christian Chapel	" " "	146	23	3	..	1	..	169	1	50	59	74	133	650
Morrisville	" " "	12	..	..	..	..	..	12	..		40		40	500
Hayes' Chapel	W. G. Clements	68	4	1	..	..	..	71	..		45		60	500
Mt. Zion	A. G. Anderson	28	5	1	..	1	..	34	..		30		30	600
Lebanon	M. L. Hurley	47	17	..	..	..	..	64	1	65	75	10	85	500
New Providence	D. A. Long	332	6	2	..	..	..	253	1	91	200	40	240	3000
Pleasant Grove	J. W. Wellons	79	18	..	..	2	..	95	1	57	227		227	2000
New Elam	W. G. Clements	95	6	..	..	..	..	101	1	57	60	15	75	600
Shallow Well	P. T. Klapp	108	9	1	..	1	..	105	1	46	75		75	400
Apple's Chapel	A. G. Anderson	145	43	..	..	1	1	186	..		49	30	79	250
Martha's Chapel	W. G. Clements	23	9	..	..	..	..	32	1	41	40	17	57	500
Hanks' Chapel	W. S. Long	150	12	1	1	1	..	160	1	34	150	5	155	500
Pleasant Union	W. H. Franks	37	14	1	..	..	..	50	..					
Salem Chapel	J. W. Pinnix	114	12	1	..	1	.	124	1	37				600
Union, (Halifax Va)	M. L. Hurley		..	..	..	..	..	130	1	54	150		150	500
Wake Chapel	J. N. Farrell		8	..	..	..	..	170	..					
Pleasant Hill (Chat)	A. Iseley	80	..	..	..	..	2	78	1	67				300
Union, (Alamance)	" " "	254	12	1	..	1	.	265	..		40	19	59	800
Antioch	J. W. Hatch	67	6	..	3	..	1	69	..					250
Pleasant Hill, (J'n)	W. H. Franks		..	..	..	..	3	56	..					
Liberty Sch'l House	D. T. Deanes	25	10	..	1	..	..	34	..		20			
Good Hope	J. W. Wellons	57	7	..	..	..	.	63	..		60	4	64	400
Mt. Pisgah	J. W. Pinnix	30	4	..	..	..	..	34	..		21		21	
Popes Chapel	J. W. Wellons		16	..	..	1	..	189	1	50	125	150	275	1500
Mt. Bethel	D. T. Deanes	30	8	..	..	..	..	38	..					200
Oak Level	J. W. Wellons	71	2	..	3	1	..	72	1	23	62	1	63	300
Bethlehem	A. Iseley	144	3	..	..	1	..	146	1	36		4	...	300
Catawba Springs	J. N. Farrell		5	..	..	1	..	100	..					400
Shallow Ford	A. Iseley	51	29	..	..	1	..	79	..		8	1	9	300
Bell's Chapel	P. T. Klapp		..	..	..	..	..	21	..		23	..	23	150

Ministerial Reports.

Rev. J. N. Farrell—had charge of Catawba Springs and Wake Chapel.

W. G. Clements—had charge of four Churches.

A. G. Anderson—had charge of Concord, Zion, and Apple's Chapel. Received 57 into the church.

D. T. Deanes—had charge of Liberty School House.

W. H. Franks—had charge of Pleasant Union, and Pleasant Hill, (Johnson.)

S. Apple—preached some and labored in the Sunday School.

W. S. Long—had charge of Hank's Chapel, Damascus, Hines' Chapel, and preached at New Providence.

J. W. Wellons—had charge of Pope's Chapel, Good Hope, Oak Level and Pleasant Grove.

D. A. Long—had charge of New Providence and Mt. Auburn. Also had charge of Graham High School.

M. L. Winston—preached about forty times.

M. L. Hurley—had charge of Union and Lebanon.

J. W. Holt—spent 8 months at Rutherford College.

J. W. Pinnix—had charge of three churches.

A. F. Iseley—preached occasionally.

S. I. Ellis—preached occasionally.

P. T. Klapp—had charge of five churches.

J. W. Hatch—preached at Antioch.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

Eastern Virginia Conference.

OAKLAND, NANSEMOND CO., VA., }
Tuesday, July 19, 1876. }

The Sunday School Convention of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference met here to-day in its Ninth Annual Session, and was called to order by the President, Rev. J. T. Whitley.

The following officers were present:

President—Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Secretary—Rev. J. Pressley Barrett.

The Convention was opened with devotional services conducted by the President, who announced the illness of Rev. Dr. Wellons, with a request from him, to be remembered in the devotional exercises. Bro. Richard Copeland led the Convention in prayer, remembering especially Bro. Wellons.

The following ministers and delegates were enrolled:

Ministers—C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, J. Pressley Barrett, E. W. Beale, John T. Kitchen, C. J. Ralston, R. C. Tuck, J. T. Whitley.

Delegates—Antioch—Rev. J. T. Whitley, Superintendent; M. L. Watkins, S. A. Eley, B. C. Roberts, A. M. Eley, T. J. Clements, S. J. Carr.

Bethlehem—Richard Copeland, Superintendent.

Berea (Nansemond)—Elisha Everett, Jas. A. Phelps, Jas. Pringle.

Cypress—W. H. Eley, W. H. Brinkley, C. J. Riddick.

Damascus—Risop J. Lassiter.

Hebron—Jethro Rayford.

Holy Neck—Rev. C. A. Apple, Superintendent; M. T. Darden.

Ivor—R. P. Bell.

Johnson's Grove—John Wellons, Murdock Butler.

Mt. Carmel—Jos. H. English, I. W. Duck, Thos. Spivey, J. T. Cox, J. E. T. Joyner, Jas. E. Beale, Lysander Pearce.

Liberty Spring—A. J. Raby, Superintendent; A. H. Savage, Jas. L. Pierce, George N. Crowell, John T. Rawls.

Oakland—James W. Stone, Superintendent.

Providence—G. D. Debaun.

Suffolk—R. H. Rawls, Merritt Briggs, Dr. F. W. Tatem.

Holland's—R. L. Holland, John T. Holland.

A quorum being present, the Convention elected the following officers:

Rev. J. T. Whitley, President.

Rev. E. W. Beale, Vice-President.

Vacancies in the Executive Committee were filled as follows: Dr. F. W. Tatem, R. H. Rawls, and M. L. Watkins.

The Chair appointed Thomas J. Clements, I. W. Duck, and G. D. Debaun a Committee on Finance.

Also, a Committee on Publications, consisting of Rev. C. A. Apple, Merritt Briggs and Richard Copeland.

The President announced Rev. C. A. Apple to speak on "*The Place and Power of the Sunday School among Religious Agencies.*"

Before the address the Convention joined in singing "Jesus Loves Even Me."

Bro. Apple then proceeded to define the Sunday School: 1. As a Means of Grace. 2. Its Peculiar Advantages. 3. Its Dangers. 4. Its Possibilities. The Sunday School is one of the *modern means* of meeting the wants of mankind. Human activity lies in the direction of seeking out and applying the best methods of satisfying the supreme necessities of our race. This work has its peculiar advantages in securing this end. But there are dangers to be avoided. The system, like all other human work, is imperfect. But God can bless it to the attainment of the highest ends of human well-being.

Reports from Schools being called for, they were presented and read. As each report was read, some representative of the school was called upon for a short talk on the condition of his school.

Antioch—M. L. Watkins: The school is in a most flourishing condition—improved one hundred per cent.

Liberty Spring—A. J. Raby: Using the *Sunday School Monthly* Lessons with great success—fully imbibing the Sunday School idea and spirit.

Suffolk—Dr. F. W. Tatem: The school accomplishing a great work—greatly in need of teachers' meetings.

Mt. Carmel—Joseph H. English and Maj. I. W. Duck: School doing well—sustained a heavy loss in the death of their Superintendent, Bro. T. M. Murray.

The Convention joined in singing "Hold the Fort," and adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention met with the President in the Chair, and opened by singing "Near the Cross."

The following delegates from Sunny Side arrived and took seats in the Convention: John T. Harris, Superintendent; James Payne. From Barrett's—B. B. Harris.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, ministerial students were invited to seats as deliberative members, and Bros. H. H. Butler and J. Urquhart Newman were enrolled as such.

"*How to Make the Music Most Effective,*" was discussed by Rev. C. J. Ralston. He showed the importance of music in our work.

Rev. M. B. Barrett discussed, "*How to Make the Bible Reading Profitable.*"

Rev. John T. Kitchen was then introduced and spoke upon "*The Characteristics of a Good Prayer in the Sunday School.*" He discussed—1. Desire. 2. Faith. 3. Expectation. 4. Simylicity. 5. Brevity. Among the many good things he said was this: "Many a good prayer has lost its effect by being too long."

Dr. F. W. Tatem followed, upon "*Best way to Combine Music, Scripture and Prayer.*" He thought these three exercises should be interspersed. He gave several incidents of the power of prayer and song.

The President gave an account of the way these were combined in his School.

President called for reports from schools as follows:

Barrett's—School is in good condition and doing well.

Holy Neck—C. A. Apple: The school large and progressing. Interest increasing, and looking forward to the introduction of greater improvement.

Bro. R. P. Bell, of Ivor, arrived and took his seat.

Liberty—Rev. J. T. Kitchen: School doing well, having united with the school of the M. E. Church of Zion, near by.

Questions on practical difficulties:

Bro. Everett, Superintendent of Berea, Nansemond county, had missed only four Sabbaths in six years, and during that time his difficulty was in interesting teachers and adults generally.

Dr. Tatem thought to throw upon them the responsibility of

bringing their children to school would likely bring out the adults.

Rev. J. T. Whitley had succeeded in part. He thought to find the proper sphere and to put them in that place would accomplish this object ; and, secondly, to make it so attractive that they cannot stay away—and the best way to do this was to give thorough instruction, and have good music and good teachers.

Bros. Richard Copeland, I. W. Duck, John T. Harris and G. D. Debaun had found similar difficulties.

"*Should Unconverted Persons be Teachers?*" came up. Some thought best not, while many thought it well.

The Convention adjourned by singing "Jesus of Nazareth Passeth By."

SECOND DAY.

Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M., with President in the chair, and was opened and half an hour spent in devotional exercises.

Bros. Thomas Parker and C. P. Norfleet, from Bethlehem, arrived and took seats.

Maj. D. B. Dunbar, Superintendent, from Suffolk, arrived and was enrolled.

On motion, the time and place of the next meeting were considered. The Vice-President was called to the chair and Rev. J. T. Whitley moved to change the time of meeting from Tuesday after the third Sunday in July to Tuesday after the third Sunday in May. It was discussed pro and con by Revs. J. T. Whitley, R. C. Tuck, C. A. Apple, and Bros. Elisha Everett, G. D. Debaun and R. H. Rawls. The motion was laid on the table till the afternoon.

"*Teaching in the Sunday School,*" was announced as the topic for discussion, which was opened by Rev. C. A. Apple on "*A Brief Statement of the Evidences of Christianity.*"

The address was earnest, full of power, and was well received by the Convention.

The Convention joined in singing "The Old, Old Story."

The report from Providence was read and Bro. Debaun represented the condition of the school as more hopeful for future success.

"*The Structure of the Bible,*" was discussed by Rev. J. T. Whitley, a diagram being drawn on the black-board to illustrate the subject. The various books of the Bible were grouped

according to their predominating characteristics, and some account of their authorship and design was given.

The Convention sang "The Gate Ajar."

"*A Lesson in Bible Geography*," was given by Rev. J. Pressley Barrett.

Rev. C. A. Apple offered the following resolution with feeling remarks as to its appropriateness:

Resolved, That this Convention does hereby express its most heartfelt sorrrw at the illness of our beloved brother and former President, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., and that we take this opportunity, as a Convention, to tender to him our most sincere sympathies and Christian regard, coupled with our most earnest prayers for his speedy restoration to health and to that position which he has so long and so worthily filled in the Church.

Adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

Several schools were called and reported—all showing improvement and progress, and zeal in the work. After singing "Hold the Fort" the Convention adjourned for dinner.

Afternoon Session.

Convention met with the President in the chair.

The time for the next meeting of this body was considered. It was discussed by Bros. Apple, Everett, Duck and Rawls, and decided that the time remain unchanged.

The Convention decided that the place for the next meeting should be selected by the Executive Committee.

Bro. R. H. Rawls offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this Convention are imperatively due and are gladly tendered to members of Oakland Christian Church, and the citizens of this community, for the generous hospitalities which we have received at their hands.

The report on Publications, was presented by Rev. C. A. Apple as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Publications beg leave to report:.

That the "*Sunday School Monthly*," edited by Rev. J. T. Whitley, of Windsor, and published by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., of Suffolk, very fully meets the wants of the schools within the jurisdiction of this Convention, so far as periodical literature is concerned. The change recently made from the "*Little Christian*" to the new Monthly has, we think, been a very judicious one. The International Lessons have been greatly improved, and are used with the most happy effects by nearly all our people. The thanks of this body are eminently due to the editor and publisher for their earnest and successful efforts to furnish us a periodical suited to our wants.

The *"Sunday School Times" "Teachers' Monthly" "Morning Watch,"* and some other papers, are well adapted to the use of teachers.

As to libraries, we are not prepared to speak at any length. We would simply recommend that those whose duty it is to make selections, be very careful in the choice of books to be put into the hands of the young, as many such publications are almost utterly worthless.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. APPLE,
MERRITT BRIGGS.
RICHARD COPELAND,
Committee.

The report was discussed by Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. E. W. Beale. It was unanimously adopted.

"The Lesson in the Closet and in the Study," was discussed by Rev. E. W. Beale, with much earnestness. He showed the great necessity of close study and of prayer. He thought the more prayer the more success.

"The Lesson in the Teachers' Meeting," was considered by Rev. R. C. Tuck.

The Committee on Finance reported as follows, which report was adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Finance beg leave to report that we have examined the state of the Finances of the Convention in the hands of the Treasurer and find a balance in hand to-day of forty-one dollars and ninety-one cents.

By quota from various Sabbath Schools paid in at this Convention, $18.93.

Total amount in the hands of the Treasurer, $60.84.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. CLEMENTS,
I. W. DUCK,
G. D. DEBAUN,
Committee.

"The Lesson in the Class," was taught by Rev. J. T. Whitley, with a class of six.

Dr. F. W. Tatem offered the following resolutions, which were adopted.

WHEREAS, It is necessary in order to make our Sunday School work more potent and efficient in doing good, that it be more thoroughly organized by obtaining all the help and aid within its reach, therefore be it

Resolved, That all parents and friends of the Sunday School be requested to instruct their children in the International Lessons at home, for by so doing they will not only aid and help them very much in this way, but they will receive great and lasting benefit themselves.

Resolved, That all parents and guardians be requested to advise with their children in reference to the great importance of the Sunday School work and that they require their punctual attendance upon the sessions of the School.

The Convention, on motion, adjourned by singing "The Home Over There," and prayer by Rev. C. A. Apple.

J. T. WHITLEY, PRESIDENT.

J. P. BARRETT, *Secretary.*

PLACES OF MEETINGS OF CONFERENCES FOR 1877.

Eastern Virginia, Mt. Carmel, Isle of Wight County, October 31st.

North Carolina, Pleasant Grove, Halifax County, Va., November 16th.

Virginia Valley, August 30th. Place yet to be selected by the Executive Committee.

Deep River, Pleasant Ridge, Randolph County, N. C., October 8th.

Georgia and Alabama—not heard from.

NOTE.

It will be seen that the Annual is much smaller than usual this year. The reason for this is purely one of economy. The Conferences whose proceedings are omitted, made no provision to pay the expense of publication, and, of course, the Editor could not insert them at his own expense. Other matter of a more general character has been left out this year, in order to make the cost of printing as light as possible. It is hoped, however, that the Annual for 1876 will be the means of promoting the true interests of that branch of Christ's Church which it represents.

THE EDITOR.

Ministerial Directory.

ELDERS.

Albright, H. A.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Allen, Chastien.....Oxford, N. C.
Allen, P. W.....Henderson, N. C.
Anderson, A. G, Anderson's Store, N. C.
Apple, Alfred Red Bank. Va.
Apple, Solomon.....Milton, N. C.
Apple, C. A..... Holy Neck, Va.
Ausley, J. B.....Jonesborough, N. C.
Barrett, S. S.....Norfolk, Va.
Barrett, M. B.....Ivor, Va.
Barrett, J. P.....Waverly, Va.
Beale, E. W Suffolk, Va.
Boon, C. A.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Brown, Wm. R.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Brady, W. G.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Burrow, John.....Wedowee, Ala.
Clements, W. G.....Morrisville, N. C.
Cofield, Lewis.....Wedowee, Ala.
Craven, Wm. M....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Deanes, D. T.....Summerfield, N. C.
Elder, J. D.....Milltown, Ala.
Elder, T. H.....Milltown, Ala.
Farrell, John N.....Happy Home, N. C.
Fowler, Thos. J.....Mebaneville, N. C.
Franks, Wm. H.....Raleigh, N. C.
Greggs, C. W.....Wedowee, Ala.
Harding. James A...Macksville, W. Va.
Hatch, John W.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Hayes, H. B.....Raleigh, N. C.
Holland, R. H.....Carrsville, Va.
Holt, J. W.....Company Shops, N. C.
Hurley, M. L.....Red Bank. Va.
Hurst, G. M.....Milnor, Ala.
Kitchen, John T.....Vicksville, Va.
Klapp, Peter T.....Sanford, N. C.
Lawrence, J. S.....Browers' Mills, N. C.
Lawrence, W. W..Browers' Mills, N. C.
Long, Wm. S.....Graham, N. C.
Long, D. A.....Graham, N. C.
Manning, J. N.....Portsmouth, Va.
Neese, J. L.....Roanoke, Ala.
Nelson, A. S.....Carter's Mills, N. C.
Pinnix, J. W. .Anderson's Store, N. C.
Rawls, Robert.....Ivor, Va.
Ralston, C. J.....Nurneysville, Va.
Smith, Jubilee.....Richland, Ga.
Sorrell, M. J.....West Point, Ga.
Staley, W. W.....Graham, N. C.
Tinnen, R. G.....Cedar Grove, N. C.
Tuck, R. C.....Norfolk, Va.
Walker, Wm. T.....Edom, Va.
Wellons, W. B.....Suffolk, Va.
Wellons, J. W.....Franklinton, N. C.
Whitley, J. T.....Suffolk, Va.
Woods, G. W.....New Market, Va.

LICENTIATES.

Butler, H. H.....Suffolk, Va.
Elder, Thomas H.....Milltown, Ga
Ellis, S. I.....Graham, N. C.
Hamilton, C. J.....Roanoke, Ala.
Humble, P. P.... ..Buffalo Ford, N. C.
Iseley, A F..... Company Shops, N. C.
Jones, D. F.....Company Shops, N. C.
Manning, W. J.....Milltown, Ala.
McLeod, D. B.....Troy, N. C.
Scott, Jno. A....Company Shops, N. C.
Williams, John C.....Edom, Va.
Winston, M. L.....Dutchville, N. C.
Wheeler, J.....Louisia, Ala.

ANNUAL

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FOR

1877.

EDITED BY

REV. J. T. WHITLEY.

VOLUME VII.

SUFFOLK, VA:

PRINTED AT THE CHRISTIAN SUN BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.

1877.

1877.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

For the information of such readers of this publication as may not be familiar with the history, principles and aims of the Christian Church, this introductory note is inserted.

The religious body represented in this ANNUAL originated as follows: At the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Baltimore, November 1st 1792, Rev. James O'Kelly, a prominent, influential and highly-useful member, withdrew from that body, because of an irreconcilable difference of opinion between himself and the majority, respecting the autocratic power of the Bishops. He was accompanied in his withdrawal by a score or more of preachers, and the new movement was soon joined by about a thousand laymen. Mr. O'Kelly and his coadjutors at first adopted the name "Republican Methodists," but in 1794 discarded that title, and declared that thenceforth "Christian" alone should be accepted as their name. Although occasional General Meetings were held, in an informal manner, for consultation, from the very first, yet no regular Conference was organized until 1818, when the Eastern Virginia Conference was formed at Holy Neck Church, Nansemond county, Virginia. In 1825 the North Carolina and Virginia Conference was organized. On the 16th of October 1825, James O'Kelly died in Chatham county, North Carolina, aged 92 years. On the 17th of February 1844, Rev. Daniel W. Kerr issued at Hillsboro, North Carolina, the first number of the "*Christian Sun*," a paper which has been recognized ever since as the organ of the Church. In April 1847 the "Southern Christian Association" was organized of representatives of the Conferences; and this body was superceded by the "Southern Christian Convention" in 1856. The civil war of 1861—'65 produced a most disastrous effect upon the Church, paralyzing for the time nearly all its activities. In 1864 the Deep River Conference was formed in central North Carolina; and at some time previous to the war the Georgia and Alabama Conference was organized. In May 1866, as the Churches were just emerging from the wreck of the war, the "Southern Christian Convention," which had been prevented from holding its regular session in 1862, met at Mt. Auburn, Warren county, North Carolina, and laid plans for future work. At this meeting a Declaration of Principles, a Form of Government, and a Directory for Worship were adopted, and the name of the body was changed

to "The General Convention of the Christian Church." In 1870 a hymn-book was published for the use of the Church. On the 16th of February 1877, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., the most prominent and widely-known minister in the Church, died at his home in Suffolk, Virginia. He had long been President of the General Convention, Editor of the "*Christian Sun*," and in many respects the recognized leader of the Church. The Christian Church now has one General Convention, five Annual Conferences, sixty-seven ministers, and about ten thousand private members.

Among the cardinal principles of the Church are these: Christ is the only Head of the Church; the name "Christian" is the proper appellation of Christ's followers; the Bible is a sufficient rule of faith and practice; Christian Character is the only proper test of Church fellowship; the right of Private Judgment in matters of religion, is inalienable, and should be freely yielded to all.

The only questions addressed to a person who applies for membership in a Christian Church, are these: "Have you sincerely and heartily repented of all your sins?" "Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world?" "Is it your purpose, through grace, to live a godly life?" Each member is permitted to decide for himself with reference to baptism and other matters of doctrine not essential to the very structure of Christianity.

The Christian Church aims, in common with other religious bodies, to spread the Gospel, and to secure, to the fullest possible extent, the conversion of the world to Christ. Its great *distinctive* mission, however, is to do everything in its power to expel sectarianism from among the people of God, to promote the liberty of the human conscience in matters of religion, to cause minor theological and ecclesiastical doctrines to be remanded to the sphere of individual judgment, and to effect the final union of all true Christians upon the basis of a common belief in the essential doctrines of Christianity.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.

MT. CARMEL, ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA., }
Wednesday, October 31st, 1877. }

THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met here to-day in its 57th annual session.

Rev. C. A. Apple, President of the last session, called the Conference to order, and conducted devotional exercises in a most appropriate and impressive manner.

The Standing Secretary, Rev. J. T. Whitley, then called the roll, and the following Ministers and Lay Delegates were enrolled as present:

ELDERS.—C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, J. Pressley Barrett, E. W. Beale, John T. Kitchen, J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley.

LICENTIATE —H. H. Butler.

LAY DELEGATES.—*Antioch*—A. M. Eley, John M. Gay, R. J. Eley. *Barrett's*—R. E. Barrett. *Bethlehem*—Richard Copeland, John R. Archer. *Johnson's Grove*—Petteway Johnson, R. W. Gate. *Mt. Carmel*—I. W. Duck, James M. Pierce. *Suffolk*—Jacob Lawshe. *Union*—R. A. Ricks, M. L. Beale. *Holy Neck*—D. L. Darden. *Damascus*—W. D. Butler. *Ivor*—George T. Rawls. *Hebron*—W. H. Cogsdale, James H. Daughtrey.

[For a full list of Ministers and Delegates present, see Statistical Table.]

A quorum being present, an election was held to fill the office of President of the present session. and Rev. C. A. Apple was chosen President by acclamation.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett was unanimously chosen Assistant Secretary.

Rev. W. G. Clements, of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference, being present, was, on motion, invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member, and was introduced by the President to the Conference. Bro. Clements acknowledged the courtesy in a brief and appropriate address.

On motion, Conference suspended its business, to hear the Introductory Sermon. Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, who had been appointed to perform that duty, proceeded to deliver the sermon from Luke 16: 8, 9: "And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when you fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

After the delivery of the sermon, the Conference took a recess for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President took the Chair, and Conference resumed business.

The following delegates arrived and were enrolled: From Barrett's, J. M. Barrett; Cypress Chapel, Irajah Langstun, W. H. Eley, W. H. Brinkley, A. B. Badger; Liberty Spring, J. T. Rawls; Eure's Cross Roads, H. A. Eure, S. J. Felton.

Reports were handed in and read from the Churches at Antioch, Cypress, Eure's Cross Roads, Holy Neck, Hebron, Bethlehem, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Suffolk, Union.

On motion, Rev. C. J. Ralston, of the Virginia Valley Conference, being present as a Fraternal Messenger from his Conference, was invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member.

Reports of the pastoral labors of the following ministers were presented and read: C. A. Apple, Mills B. Barrett, J. Pressley Barrett, E. W. Beale, J. T. Kitchen, H. H. Butler, J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley, Robert Rawls, C. J. Ralston.

Rev. M. B. Barrett, and lay-brothers I. W. Duck and James M. Pierce, were appointed a committee on Religious Exercises.

Rev. J. N. Manning offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of Conference are due, and are hereby tendered to Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, for the practical and instructive sermon delivered at the opening of this session of Conference.

On motion, Rev. J. N. Manning and Bros. R. W. Gate and Walter H. Eley, were appointed a Special Committee, to examine the records of the local Churches.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Conference decided to establish the following hours for meeting and adjournment: Meet at 9½ o'clock A. M., and adjourn at 12 M., for preaching and refreshments; meet at 2 P. M., and adjourn at will.

Brother P. F. Duke, a delegate from Liberty Spring, arrived and took his seat as a member of Conference.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. C. J. Ralston to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock noon.

On motion, Conference adopted the Rules of Order of the last session for its present government. The Rules were read for the information of the body.

The Standing Committee on Sunday Schools presented their report, which was laid on the table and made the special order for to-morrow immediately after disposing of the report on Religious Literature.

The Executive Committee made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

The Executive Committee have not been called upon to transact any business during the past Conference year, and consequently have nothing to report.

J. T. WHITLEY,
J. N. MANNING,
E. W. BEALE,
} Committee.

The body then, on motion, went into the selection of a place for holding the next annual session. Barrett's Church, Southampton county, Va., was nominated and unanimously chosen.

Rev. J. T. Kitchen was chosen to preach the Annual Sermon at the next Conference.

Brethren appointed at the last annual session to attend the meetings of sister Conferences, as Fraternal Messengers, were called on for their reports.

Rev. Bros. E. W. Beale, J. T. Whitley and C. A. Apple reported that they attended the last session of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, and participated in its deliberations.

The brethren appointed to visit the Virginia Valley Conference, reported that they were unable to attend.

On motion, Conference then adjourned until to-morrow morning. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. C. J. Ralston.

SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, NOV. 1, 1877.

Conference assembled and spent a short time in worship under the leadership of the President.

The roll of members was called, and the proceedings of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Bro. Rufus C. Hall, delegate from the Church at Holy Neck, and Bro. R. J. Corbitt, delegate from Damascus, arrived and

were enrolled. They rendered excuses for their tardiness, and were excused.

The report of the Church at Damascus was handed in and read.

Conference proceeded, on motion, to elect Fraternal Messengers to sister Conferences.

To the North Carolina Conference Rev. Brothers C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley, E. W. Beale, J. N. Manning and M. B. Barrett were elected.

To the Virginia Valley Conference, Rev. Brothers J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple, J. Pressley Barrett and J. T. Kitchen were appointed.

Rev. M. B. Barrett and Rev. J. T. Whitley were chosen to attend the Deep River Conference.

Brother J. Frank Little, delegate from the Church at Suffolk, arrived and was enrolled. Also, Brother W. H. Gay, from Antioch.

The Conference then went into the election of delegates to the General Convention of the Christian Church.

The following ministerial delegates were chosen: Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. M. B. Barrett. [Rev. C. A. Apple declined an election, as he is already *ex-officio* a member of the Convention.]

The following lay-delegates were chosen: I. W. Duck, Alexander Savage, P. H. Lee and H. T. West.

The following were elected alternates: Ministerial, Rev. R. H. Holland, Rev. J. T. Kitchen; lay, Thomas J. Clements, John M. Gay.

The Committee on Religious Literature presented a report which was read and laid on the table until immediately after recess to-day.

The matter of printing the minutes of this session in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL was then taken up, the roll of Churches was called, and subscriptions received for that purpose.

Col. Alexander Savage, Treasurer of the Conference, arrived and took his seat as a member of the body.

Brother W. J. Lee, of Berea Church, Nansemond county, being present as an alternate delegate, was enrolled as a member of Conference.

Brothers H. T. West and C. C. Richardson, delegates from Spring Hill, came in and were enrolled. They were excused for tardiness.

Conference then took a recess until 2 o'clock, P. M. During the recess a sermon was delivered by Rev. C. J. Ralston, from Isaiah 40: 29-31: "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the

youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President took the Chair and called the body to order.

The reports of the Churches at Spring Hill and Berea (Nansemond county) were read.

A letter was also read from Rev. S. S. Barrett, an absent Elder of the Conference.

The report on Religious Literature was taken from the table, and read as follows:

REPORT.

To the Eastern Virginia Conference:

Your Committee has been mostly concerned in circulating the *Christian Sun*, as containing the best religious literature, outside of the Bible, for our people. The *Sun* is very ably edited, and as the organ of our denomination, it has taken a bold stand upon the platform of principles which we all hold dear. As a religious journal we may justly be proud of it, as ranking among the first class of religious journals at the South. As an exponent of the principles of religious liberty we think it is without an equal, and certainly this of itself entitles it to the hearty support of a people who claim the right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience.

As a Committee we have endeavored to act in conjunction with the editors, in extending the circulation of the paper, and we are glad to report that its condition is more healthy financially than it was a year ago, though it is not yet in a paying condition.

We have taken advantage of the District and Mass Meetings by having addresses delivered upon this subject, followed by the soliciting of subscribers by the editor and others, and we think with some success. We recommend that this work be continued with all the enthusiasm possible, with the hope of securing greater efficiency in the local agent system, and thereby gaining a more liberal support for the paper. This we would urge earnestly, regarding as we do the interests of the paper, and the denomination it represents, as mutual.

Your Committee also find a need for a few cheap pamphlets upon subjects pertaining to the distinguishing features of our Church, for general circulation, especially in localities where we are building up new interests. We would be glad if some of our ablest writers would prepare a few such tracts, as there is a great amount of ignorance in regard to the true position we hold, which we think, could it be taken away, would gain for us much strength and many new friends.

Fraternally submitted,

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
JOHN T. KITCHEN,
A. M. ELEY,
} Committee.

The report was discussed by Rev. Brothers J. Pressley Barrett, C. A. Apple, J. T. Whitley, J. N. Manning and E. W,

Beale; after which an effort was made to increase the subscription list of the *Christian Sun*. The effort met with gratifying success. The report was then unanimously adopted.

Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the President.

THIRD DAY.

FRIDAY, NOV. 2, 1877.

The President took the chair and conducted devotional exercises, which were participated in by several brethren.

The roll was called and the minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Bro. John Oberry, being present as an alternate delegate from the Church at Holy Neck, was, in the absence of some of the principal delegates, recognized as a member of the body.

Bro. J. T. Harris, of Spring Hill Church, was, on motion, invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member.

The report on Sunday Schools was taken from the table and discussed by Rev. J. T. Kitchen, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Bro. W. H. Gay, Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. E. W. Beale and Bro. R. W. Gate, after which it was adopted, as follows:

REPORT.

Your Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools desire to report, that so far as we know, all our Schools, with one or two exceptions, are in successful operation. The Conference has about twenty-three Schools within its bounds.—We know of some Churches which maintain their organization, but have let their Sabbath Schools stop work entirely. We would state, that a Mission School has been established at the Sycamore, on Nottoway River, which was not reported in the last Sabbath School Convention. We advise members of the Churches who cannot conveniently attend the Schools at their respective Churches, to establish Mission Schools in destitute places. Much good service for the Lord can be done in this way, if an earnest effort is made.

We believe it has been seen this year, as well as in preceding years, that the Churches which maintain good, interesting and instructive Sunday Schools are in the most prosperous condition. Many of our Schools are making excellent progress every year. We account for this mainly on the ground that the International Sunday School Lessons have aided in studying the Bible more systematically and more thoroughly. No one can either study or learn successfully without a plan. We, therefore, earnestly hope, that every School connected with the Churches of this Conference, will use the best method in their reach, to impart a knowledge of God to those they are endeavoring to instruct.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. KITCHEN,
H. H. BUTLER, } Committee.

The report on Church Records was taken up out of its order by general consent, at the request of the Chairman of the Committee, and was read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Church Records would report a decided improvement in the manner of keeping the books of the Churches, showing very conclusively the wisdom of our Government in requiring the Churches to submit their records to the inspection of the Conferences.

There is yet room, however, for considerable improvement in this matter Many of the Churches have omitted to insert the Primary Constitution, to. which the members should subscribe, and a large number have taken no note whatever of their finances; there is no statement of receipts or disbursements, and their books fail to show any collections made, or moneys paid out. Others, again, in cases of important trials, resulting in the expulsion of the accused, do not even mention the charges, nor give any account of the proceedings in the case beyond this, that "On motion, the brother was expelled." We would recommend that the Churches appoint for Secretaries, persons best acquainted with the forms of business, and that the omissions mentioned in this report be corrected in the future. We would also state that nearly half the Churches neglected to send their records to Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING,
R. W. GATE,
W. H. ELEY,
} Committee.

The Committee on Home Missions presented the following as a part of their

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Home Missions, submit the following as a partial report:

1. Soon after the adjournment of our last Annual Conference, the members of the Committee were called together, and organized for work by electing E. W. Beale President, John M. Gay Recording and Corresponding Secretary, M. B. Barrett Soliciting Agent, and J. Pressley Barrett and D. B. Dunbar a sub-committee on Mission Stations. Subsequently, Rev. M. B. Barrett resigned both his office and his membership in the Committee; whereupon Col. A. Savage was elected a member in his place and was also made Treasurer. Rev. J. Pressley Barrett was chosen Soliciting Agent. The Committee went to work at once to raise a suitable missionary fund, on the following plan: The Soliciting Agent visited as many of the Churches as he could, delivered addresses and induced many persons to sign notes for various amounts, payable to the Treasurer of the Conference. The notes are made non-collectible so long as the interest is paid, and they are made to expire at the end of ten years, or at the death of the maker. A local agent was appointed in each Church, to canvass in behalf of our work, and to co-operate with the Committee. The following is a statement of the result of our effort up to the present time:

Churches visited by the Soliciting Agent: Johnson's Grove, Spring Hill, Antioch, Hebron, Holy Neck, Mt. Carmel, Bethlehem, Berea (Nansemond), Liberty Spring, Oakland, Cypress, Suffolk, Union, Barrett's, Ivor, Providence.

Amount pledged in notes	$10.000.00.
Annual interest due from notes	600.00.
Amount of interest paid this year,	450.00.
Amount yet uncollected	150.00.
Expenses incurred	35.00.

Our object has been to secure pledges to such an amount as to have an annual income sufficient to keep one or more missionaries constantly in the field. We trust that future efforts will be entirely successful in swelling the amount pledged to the proportions desired.

2. With regard to inviting fields for missionary labor, we do not deem it necessary to say a great deal until the time shall arrive when the condition of our finances shall enable us to support laborers who enter them. Most of the cities and towns, as well as rural communities adjacent to our Churches, are eligible places for the efforts of our missionaries. In future reports more specific recommendations will probably be made.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. BEALE,
J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
ALEX. SAVAGE,
JOHN M. GAY,
D. B. DUNBAR,
} Committee.

The report was discussed earnestly by Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett and Rev. C. A. Apple. Pending the consideration of the report, Conference took a recess for public service and refreshments. Rev. J. N. Manning preached to the congregation in the house, from John 17: 25: "O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me."

At the same hour Rev. E. W. Beale preached to an audience assembled in the grove, from Galatians 6: 10: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Afternoon Session.

The body was called to order by the President, and the consideration of the report on Home Missions was resumed.

The report was discussed by Bro. John M. Gay, Rev. J. T. Whitley and Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, after which it was unanimously adopted.

The Special Committee appointed at the last annual session to arrange for District Meetings, made the following

REPORT.

To the Eastern Virginia Conference:

Your Committee appointed to group the Churches of this Conference into four districts, and to conduct a meeting in behalf of the enterprises of our Conference in one of these districts every fifth Saturday and Sunday, beg leave to report as follows:

We met immediately after the adjournment of the Conference that appointed us, and districted the Conference thus:

1st District—Spring Hill, Barrett's, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Union.

2d District—Antioch, Oakland, Bethlehem, Hebron, Mt. Carmel.

3d District—Holy Neck, Liberty Spring, Cypress Chapel, Damascus, Eure's Cross Roads.

4th District—Suffolk, Berea (Nansemond), Berea (Norfolk), Liberty, Providence, Sharon.

We have held a meeting in each of these Districts during the past year, and also one Mass Meeting in District No. 3, at Cypress Chapel. We think that these meetings have accomplished as much as we could reasonably have expected the first year. Wherever their influence has reached, an interest, hitherto unknown among our people, has been awakened in behalf of our various Conference enterprises, such as Education, Home Missions, Religious Literature, &c., and now we feel that with good management, under the blessings of God, the future of the District Meetings is laden with rich results for our cause.

As a special committee, our work is done, but we venture to suggest that Conference adopt measures at this session for the perpetuation and more extended usefulness of the District Meeting system.

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
E. W. BEALE,
I. W. DUCK,
JOHN T. KITCHEN,
} Committee.

Remarks were made upon the report by Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev. C. A. Apple, Bro. I. W. Duck, Rev. E. W. Beale, and Rev. J. T. Kitchen, after which it was slightly amended and adopted.

The following preamble and resolutions, having for their object the perpetuation and more extended usefulness of the District Meeting system, were presented, discussed, and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, This Conference, at its last annual session, adopted a plan for the more efficient prosecution of its work through the various Standing Committees; and, *whereas,* it is deemed expedient to supplement that plan with such other provisions as will promote its successful execution, therefore

1. *Resolved,* That the Churches composing the Conference shall be grouped into four districts, as follows: District No. 1—Spring Hill, Barrett's, Union, Johnson's Grove, Ivor. District No. 2—Antioch, Mt. Carmel, Hebron, Bethlehem, Oakland. District No. 3—Holy Neck, Liberty Spring, Cypress, Eure's Cross Roads, Damascus. District No. 4—Suffolk, Berea (Nansemond), Providence, Liberty, Berea (Norfolk), Sharon.

2. *Resolved,* That in each of these Districts a District Meeting shall be held once a year, embracing a 5th Sunday; and that, in addition thereto, auxiliary mass meetings shall be held at such times and places as may appear best. The object of these meetings shall be to bring forcibly to the attention of the Churches the subjects of Education, Missions, Religious Literature, Sunday Schools, &c., and the exercises shall be of such a character as will most fully accomplish that object, and secure the sympathy and pecuniary contributions of the Churches for these enterprises.

3. *Resolved,* That the District Meetings shall be composed of (a) all Elders and Licentiates present, (b) all officers of Conference present, (c) all members of Conference Standing Committees present, (d) all Local Agents of the Conference Committees present from the Churches of that District.

4. *Resolved,* That the President of the last annual Conference shall preside at all the District and Auxiliary Meetings, and that the Standing Secretary of Conference shall be Secretary of the meetings and preserve an outline of the proceedings in a book prepared for that purpose. In the absence of either of these officers, the Meeting shall temporarily fill the vacancy.

5. *Resolved,* That the President and Secretary shall constitute a committee to make all arrangements, as to places of meeting, programmes of exercises, speakers, &c.

6. *Resolved,* That the records of these Meetings shall be submitted to the next ensuing annual Conference as a report.

On motion, Conference instructed Col. Alex. Savage, the Treasurer of the body, to deposit the funds in his hands belonging to this Conference in the Farmers Bank of Nansemond, subject to his order as Treasurer.

The annual report of the Church at Barrett's was read.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow. Devotional exercises by Rev. W. G. Clements.

FOURTH DAY.

SATURDAY, NOV. 3, 1877.

Conference convened, and spent a short time in devotional exercises, led by Rev. E. W. Beale.

The roll of members was called, and the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion, Conference directed that all the notes signed in behalf of the Home Mission work, should be placed for safe keeping in the hands of the Treasurer of Conference.

Rev. E. W. Beale offered the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, It has pleased God, since our last annual session, to remove out of our midst, REV. W. B. WELLONS, D. D., our venerated Christian brother, and the spiritual father of a very large number of the members of the Church within our bounds; and

Whereas, This Conference and the Church at large has suffered a great and irreparable loss in the death of DR. WELLONS, therefore, be it

1. *Resolved,* That this Conference does hereby express its profound sorrow in the loss which it has pleased our Heavenly Father to bring upon this Conference, upon the CHRISTIAN CHURCH, and upon the community at large, of which he was an honored and eminently useful citizen.

2. *Resolved,* That this Conference does hereby tender to the bereaved family of DR. WELLONS its most cordial Christian sympathy in the common calamity which has befallen both them and us.

3. *Resolved,* That this Conference will join at a proper time with any other organization of our Church in erecting a suitable monument, or getting up any suitable testimonial to the memory of our lamented brother.

4. *Resolved,* That these resolutions be spread upon the records of this body, and that they be published in such manner as the President and Secretary of this body may determine.

Remarks of a tender and impressive character were made by Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. W. G. Clements, Rev. E. W. Beale and Bro. I. W. Duck, after which the preamble and resolutions were adopted.

Rev. R. H. Holland, an Elder in the Conference, arrived and was enrolled. He rendered his excuse for tardiness and was excused.

The President announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

Education.—J. T. Whitley, J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale.

Home Missions.—E. W. Beale, Alexander Savage, John M. Gay, H. T. West, P. H. Lee.

Sunday Schools.—J. T. Whitley, M. B. Barrett, O. H. Baird, I. W. Duck, Richard Copeland.

Religious Literature.—J. N. Manning, J. Pressley Barrett, J. T. Kitchen, Willis J. Lee, W. D. Butler.

Executive Committee.—J. T. Whitley, J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. C. A. Apple was added to the Committee on Education as Chairman.

Rev. J. T. Whitley offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Conference hereby tenders its warmest thanks to the pastor and members of Mt. Carmel Church, and the various families of the community, for their unbounded hospitality shown to members and visitors during the present session of the body.

The Treasurer of Conference, Bro. Alexander Savage, made the following report, which was received:

ALEXANDER SAVAGE, *Treasurer;*
In Account with *Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.*

1877.			
July 10.	To amount of collection at Annual Conference 1876, for incidental expenses as per receipt to Secretary, - - -	$23 18	
Nov. 3.	To amount collected at Annual Conference 1877, for incidental expenses as per receipt to Secretary, - - -	17 00	
" 3.	To amount of interest collected on Home Mission bonds to Nov. 1st, 1877, -	450 00	
	Total amount, - - -	$490 18	
" 3.	By amount paid Secretary for incidental expenses, - - - - - -		$4 50
" 3.	By amount paid Soliciting Agent for expenses, - - - - - -		35 00
" 5.	By amount placed to credit of Conference, subject to order of Treasurer - - -		450 68
	Total amount, - - -		$490 18

Conference then took a recess for preaching and refreshments. During the recess Rev. C. A. Apple preached, from Matt. 9: 37,38: "And he saith unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference re-assembled, with the President in the Chair.

The Committee on Home Missions submitted the following additional report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Home Missions beg to submit the following as the remainder of their report:

We find, upon consultation with delegates, that the following arrangements have been made for preaching for the ensuing Conference year: Antioch, Bethlehem, Berea and Oakland, Rev. E. W. Beale; Barrett's, Mt. Carmel and Johnson's Grove, Rev. M. B. Barrett; Eure's Cross Roads, Damascus, and probably Liberty Spring, and Hebron, Rev. C. J. Ralston; Ivor, Cypress and Union, Rev. J. T. Kitchen; Suffolk, Rev. J. T. Whitley; Spring Hill, Rev. C. A. Apple; Holy Neck, not yet supplied, but will soon perfect its own arrangements. In the absence of delegates, we presume that the Churches at Providence, Berea (Norfolk), and Sharon, have employed their former pastor, Rev. R. C. Tuck. For Liberty Church, we recommend that Brother H. H. Butler continue to preach at least once a month, with the assistance of Conference.

In the case of the Berkley Church, which was referred to the Committee by our last Conference, we have to report that we are unable, independent of the members of this Church, to supply it with preaching. Your Committee further report with reference to the purchase of this property, which was referred to them, that the kindness of the brother who owns the property, tenders it to us as a place of worship free; hence we thought it inexpedient to spend our limited funds for that purpose.

E. W. BEALE,
ALEXANDER SAVAGE,
JOHN M. GAY,
J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, } Committee.

The Committee on Education, through its Chairman, Rev. C. A. Apple, presented the subjoined

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to report:

1. That in accordance with the plan adopted at your last annual session, the Committee met soon after the close of said session, and thoroughly organized itself for work, electing Rev. C. A. Apple, Chairman, and Rev. E. W. Beale, Corresponding Secretary. The Committee then proceeded to appoint sub-committees of its own members upon the following departments of its work, viz: 1. On General Education, Rev. Bros. C. A. Apple and R. H. Holland. 2. On the Maintenance of Ministerial Students, Rev. Bros. E. W. Beale and J. T. Whitley. 3. On the subject of Seeking out Suitable Young Men as Candi-

dates for the Ministry, Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley and J. N. Manning. We are therefore enabled to make a tolerably accurate report upon these topics.

2. The work of the Church, so far as this Conference is concerned, as respects General Education, is chiefly represented by the Suffolk Collegiate Institute. Since your last annual sitting, the venerable and excellent President of that institution, has been gathered, as we believe, to his rest in heaven. In him, our only school of high grade has suffered an irreparable loss. Few know how earnestly he labored in its behalf, and how fully his heart was enlisted in the arduous task of making the school a successfully one, in spite of external opposition, and of the most violent and inculpable internal dissension. Truly, not the least among the many reasons which the CHRISTIAN CHURCH has for honoring the memory of DR. WELLONS, is the fact that he was the founder of the SUFFOLK COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

At the close of the session of 1876-'77, it became necessary to select some suitable successor to fill the presidential chair, left vacant by DR. WELLONS. The Board of Trustees met, and, by unanimous consent, the choice fell upon Rev. C. A. Apple, the present chairman of your Committee. The whole faculty of the school was then remodelled, greatly to its improvement, both as respects the culture of its members, and their capacity for successful and thorough instruction. The present session began Sept. 24, 1877, with fully an average attendance. Since the opening, the number of pupils has been increasing every week, and the prospects are very encouraging for the future.—If our people will but do half of their duty by this school, it is certain to prove a great blessing to the church and the community. It is painful to think, however, that some of our people do not appreciate, as they should, the importance of this school to the success of our cause.

3. During the school year 1876-'77, Bro. H. H. Butler, a licentiate, and Bros. John U. Newman and Charles P. Norfleet attended school at the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, boarding in the family of Rev. E. W. Beale, who kindly took charge of them. We regret to say that Bro. Beale has not been so fully sustained in this work by the church as he ought to have been. Owing to the fact that there was still a deficit, at the opening of the present session of the Institute, Bro. Beale felt justified in assuming the risk of only one of the former ministerial students, Bro. John U. Newman, who is now prosecuting his studies in a manner alike creditable to himself, and gratifying to the committee.

4. Since your last session, two young brethren have been admitted members of the ministerial class, namely, Jay William Barrett and Robert E. Barrett. Both of these young men give evidence of a capacity for usefulness in the ministry, and the committee decided that they should be placed at school, if means could be procured. Bro. Beale assumed the risk in the case of Bro. Jay William Barrett, and the church at Barrett's, at the time of the District Meeting held at that place, on the 5th Sunday in September last, pledged about half the sum requisite to keep Bro. R. E. Barrett at school for a year; and so he also is now attending school at the Institute, and is under the care of Bro. Beale. There are, as we have reason to believe, several other young men of promise, who are looking toward the ministry. The committee hopes that means may be provided whereby these brethren may not only enter the class, but be also placed at school, together with some, who are already in the class, but out of school, because they cannot procure means of maintaining themselves while in the prosecution of their studies. We are fully persuaded that, with a proper effort during the present session of Conference, the work of the District Meetings to be held during the coming year, may result in the acquirement of a sufficient amount to meet all these calls for aid to this great and good work.

5. Lastly, we would distinctly urge upon all young men preparing for the Gospel Ministry, the importance of doing as much towards their own support as their means or opportunities will allow. To ask for gratuitous help, should

be the last resort. Few things more contribute to form that manly, self-reliant character, for which every clergyman should be distinguished, than constant, brave, and self-denying efforts, upon the part of a young man aspiring to such a position, to work his own way as far as possible, without extraneous assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. APPLE,
J. N. MANNING,
J. T. WHITLEY,
E. W. BEALE,
R. H. HOLLAND,
} Committee.

The report was discussed at length by Rev. Bros. C. A. Apple, E. W. Beale and J. T. Whitley, after which a collection was taken up for the support of ministerial students. A motion to adopt the report then prevailed.

After closing devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. J. T. Whitley, the Conference adjourned to meet with Barrett's Church, Southampton county, Va., on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November, 1878.

C. A. APPLE, PRESIDENT.

J. T. WHITLEY, *Secretary*,
J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, *Assistant Secretary*.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Members rep't'd last session.	Received since.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Sunday Sch'ls.	Connected with Sunday Sch'ls.	Amount Paid Pastor.	To Educate Y'ung Preach'rs	For Other Purposes.	Whole Amount.	Value of Ch'ch Property.
Antioch	J. T. Whitley	J. M. Gay, A. M. Eley, W. H. Gay, R. J. Eley,	546	3	2	...	4	68	469	1	122	$250	$65	$45 00	$360 00	$2,000
Barretts	M. B. Barrett	J. M. Barrett, R. E. Barrett	189		1	...	...	5	184	1	127	100	62	20 00	182 00	800
Bethlehem	E. W. Beale.	Richard Copeland, J. R. Archer	234	1	1	2	5	1	226	1	37	150		12 00	162 00	300
Berea (Nans'd)	E. W. Beale.	Willis J. Lee	83	5	1	2	1	...	84	1	76	175	3612	105 42	316 54	1,400
Berea (Norfolk)	R. C. Tuck	No Delegate			...	...	...	...		...						
Cypress	E. W. Beale	I. Langstun, W. H Eley, A. B. Badger, W. H. Brinkley.	284	1	...	6	5	1	273	1	82	300	27	28 05	355 05	1,500
Damascus	C. J. Ralston	R. J. Corbitt, W. D. Butler	191	1	1	5	1	3	182	1	41	125		120 00	245 00	1,500
Eure's X Roads	C. J. Ralston	H. A. Eure, S. J. Felton	63	29	...	2	1	1	88	1	72	60		400 00	460 00	
Hebron	C. J. Ralston	W. H. Cogsdale, J. H. Daughtrey.	150	...	...	1	3	3	143	1	43	125		10 00	135 00	1,000
Holy Neck	C A. Apple.	D. L. Darden, John Oberry, R. C. Hall.	415	1	1	1	1	3	410	1	90	200	25	100 00	325 00	1,500
Ivor	M. B. Barrett	George T. Rawls	37	1	...	...	...	1	37	1	44	75		10 00	85 00	800
Jerusalem	No Pastor	No Delegate	25		...	...	...	...		...						800
Johnson's Gr've	J. P. Barrett	P. Johnson, R W. Gate	57	29	...	2	...	1	83	1	54	75		20 00	95 00	600
Liberty	J. T. Kitchen	No Delegate	46		...	...	...	...		...						1,000
Liberty Spring.	C. J. Ralston	J. T. Rawls, P. F. Duke	108	1	3	1	2	2	101	1	64	100		65 00	165 00	1,000
Mt. Carmel	M. B. Barrett	I. W. Duck, J. M. Pierce	163		...	...	...	7	156	1	189	100	10	75 00	185 00	1,000
Oakland	E. W. Beale	No delegate	72	1	...	...	1	...	72	1	74	125	1675	18 50	159 65	1,000
Providence	R. C. Tuck	No delegate	50		...	1	2	...	47	1	45	50	20	5 00	75 00	1,000
Sharon	R. C. Tuck	No delegate	44		...	2	2	...	40	1	58	21			21 00	300
Spring Hill	J. P. Barrett	H. T. West, C. C. Richardson	154		1	3	2	2	146	2		225			225 00	900
Suffolk	J. T. Whitley	Jacob Lawshe, J. Frank Little	155	17	...	...	3	...	169	1	140	400	2271	250 00	672 71	3,000
Union	J. T. Kitchen	R. A. Ricks, M. L. Beale	68	35	...	...	1	1	101	1	69	75		5 00	80 00	1,000
			3134	125	11	28	34	99	3011	20	1427	$2,731	284,58	1388,97	4,303 95	$22,400

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

NAME.	CHURCHES IN CHARGE.	Sermons Preached.	Lectures Delivered.	Prayer Meetings Held.	Conversions in Charge.	Pastoral Visits Paid.	Funerals.	Marriages.	SALARY.
C. A. Apple	Holy Neck	45	30	5	—	50	10	5	$200,00
J. Pressley Barrett . .	Johnson's Grove and Spring Hill	40	20	5	50	—	1	6	300,00
M. B. Barrett	Barrett's, Mt. Carmel and Ivor	50	10	10	—	50	15	6	275,00
S. S. Barrett	None	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	———
E. W. Beale	Cypress, Bethlehem, Berea, and Oakland.	60	30	30	31	100	17	6	700,00
H. H. Butler	Assisted at Liberty	48	2	—	—	40	1	—	50,00
J. T. Kitchen	Liberty and Union	50	5	6	28	50	6	9	15,000
J. N. Manning	None.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	———
C. J. Ralston	Liberty Spring, Hebron, Damascus Eure's Cross Roads.	90	—	34	90	30	39	19	425,00
Robert Rawls	None.	15	45	35	—	—	—	2	———
R. C. Tuck	Providence, Berea (Norfolk), and Sharon.	45	—	—	—	20	4	8	90,00
J. T. Whitley	Antioch and Suffolk	100	60	45	9	80	11	3	650,00
		543	202	70	208	420	104	74	$2,840,00

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Deep River Christian Conference.

PLEASANT RIDGE, RANDOLPH CO., N. C.,
Thursday, Oct. 11th, 1877.

THE DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE convened here to-day in its 13th Annual Session.

Rev. J. S. Lawrence, President of the last session, called the body to order and led in devotional exercises.

The following ministers and lay-delegates were enrolled as present:

ELDERS: J. S. Lawrence, W. R. Brown, W. M. Craven, W. W. Lawrence, P. P. Humble, W. G. Brady.

LICENTIATES: J. A. Scott, S. H. Way.

LAY-DELEGATES: *Pleasant Grove*—Louis Brady, A. L. Needham, A. D. Leonard, H. T. Wilson, Benj. Perry, A. W. Leonard, T. M. Marley. *Shiloh*—H. T. Moffitt, Chas. Moffitt, John E. Albright, William Hayworth. *Pleasant Ridge*—William Cox, J. M. Stinson, G. H. Black. *Parks' Cross Roads*—James Stout, M. W. Coward, Oliver Vestal. *Union Grove*—Ira C. Brown, Daniel C. Brown, D. C. Scott. *Shady Grove*—E. C. Martin, Jacob Vuncanon. *New Center*—Enoch Latham, L. Owen, G. L. Macon, Hardy Criscoe. *Brown's Chapel*—Nicholas Nall, E. Freeman. *Mount Zion*—William Cagle. *New Bear Creek*—Thomas Brown.

Brother Hugh T. Moffitt was then chosen President, Brother Oliver Vestal, Vice-President, and Rev. J. A. Scott Assistant Secretary.

Rev. John W. Hatch, a fraternal messenger from the North Carolina Conference, was welcomed to a seat in the body, and made a few appropriate remarks in accepting the invitation.

Brothers A. M. Way and S. M. Burns, of the North Carolina Conference, were also invited to seats as deliberative members.

The Rules of Order were then read.

Conference decided to meet each day at 9 o'clock A. M , take a recess at 11½ o'clock for refreshments, reassemble at 1 P. M., and adjourn at will.

Brothers William Cox, Oliver Vestal and Chas. Moffitt were appointed a committee on Religious Exercises.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. G. Brady.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, October 12, 1877.

Conference convened, and worship was conducted by Brother S. H. Way. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. H. A. Albright arrived and took his seat.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, a member of the Eastern Virginia Conference and Editor of the *Christian Sun*, being present, was invited to a seat in the body. Also the same invitation was extended to Rev. M. L. Hurley, of the North Carolina Conference. These brethren accepted the courtesies of the Conference in a few remarks.

The President announced the following committees:

Education—Rev. W. R. Brown, Rev. J. S. Lawrence, Rev. P. P. Humble, Rev. W. G. Brady. [Conference added the name of the President.]

Home Missions—Rev. J. S. Lawrence, J. E. Albright, Oliver Vestal, E. Freeman.

Sabbath Schools—W. W. Hayworth, Ira C. Brown, E. C. Martin.

Statistics—Rev. W. M. Craven, Thomas Brown, John Stinson.

Memoirs—Rev. J. A. Scott, James Stout, Daniel C. Brown.

Temperance—Rev. H. A. Albright, Lewis Brady, M. W. Coward, S. H. Way.

Publications—Rev. H. A. Albright, Rev. W. W. Lawrence, William Cox.

The annual sermon was then delivered by Rev. W. W. Lawrence from 1 Cor. 15 : 58. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Letters were then read from the Churches.

Conference decided to hold its next annual session with the Church at Union Grove, Randolph county, N. C., beginning on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1878.

A recess was then taken for dinner.

Afternoon Session.

At one o'clock the body reassembled and resumed its business.

The Conference decided to publish its proceedings in the Christian Annual, and raised sufficient money at once to secure their publication.

Conference then took a recess to allow the Home Mission Society to hold its annual meeting.

The Missionary Society began its session at once with Bro. E. C. Martin, the President, in the chair. The constitution was so amended as to allow children under fifteen years of age to become life members by subscribing one dollar and paying the interest upon it annually. Rev. J. T. Whitley addressed the Society on the subject of Home Missions. After remarks by several brethren, a call was made and many members of the Conference made pledges to sustain the Mission cause. After directing the Treasurer to invest the funds in hand, the society adjourned.

Conference then resumed its business, and, on motion, adjourned until to-morrow.

THIRD DAY.

Saturday, October 13, 1877.

The body met, with the President in the Chair. The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Rev. W. G. Brady was appointed to deliver the next annual sermon, with Rev. P. P. Humble as alternate.

Rev. W. R. Brown and lay-brothers H. T. Moffitt and Oliver Vestal were appointed fraternal messengers to the North Carolina Conference; and Revs. J. S. Lawrence, H. A. Albright, and J. A. Scott were chosen to perform the same service with reference to the Eastern Virginia Conference.

Revs. W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, H. A. Albright and Bros. H. T. Moffitt and H. C. Vestal were appointed an Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

The Committee on Sunday Schools submitted the following report, which was earnestly discussed by Rev. J. W. Hatch, Rev. J. T. Whitley, A. M. Way and Rev. H. A. Albright, and afterwards adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to make the following report:

The Sabbath School cause in some of our Churches has received some attention and made some progress, while in other Churches of the Conference this cause has been neglected. We would earnestly recommend that our pastors and Churches devote more care to this great and noble cause; for we believe it to be the most efficient auxiliary of the Church, and the means of planting Gospel truth in the minds of the young and training them in the way they should go.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. HAYWORTH,
IRA C. BROWN,
E. C. MARTIN,
} Committee.

Rev. W. M. Craven, Chairman of the Committee on Statistics, offered a report, which was adopted. The report appears in tabular form upon another page.

Conference then took a recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the beginning of the Afternoon session, Rev. H. A. Albright read the report of the Committee on Temperance, which was discussed by Revs. H. A. Albright, J. T. Whitley, M. L. Hurley and J. S. Lawrence, and then laid on the table until the night session.

The Committee on Periodicals then made the following

REPORT.

Your Committee on Periodicals would report that in the bounds of our Conference we have no publications. But we are pleased to be able to bring forward for your consideration the *Christian Sun* of Suffolk, Va., the acknowledged organ of the Christian Church, South, and ably edited by our beloved brother, Rev. J. T. Whitley. In this paper the principles of our Church are fully and fairly set forth. Brethren, we heartily commend it to your consideration. By reading the *Sun* we are kept acquainted with the affairs of our own Church, and with the movements of the religious world. The price is low enough, and we much desire to see the time when our members shall give the *Sun* a liberal support.

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. ALBRIGHT,
W. W. LAWRENCE,
WILLIAM COX,
} Committee.

The report was discussed in a brief address by the Chairman of the Committee; after which Rev. J. T. Whitley addressed the Conference and congregation in behalf of the *Christian Sun*, the organ of the denomination, and afterwards canvassed the congregation for subscribers.

At the close of this effort, Conference adjourned until to-night.

Night Session.

At 7 o'clock P. M., Conference reassembled, with Bro. Oliver Vestal, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The report on Periodicals was taken up and unanimously adopted.

The report on Temperance was then taken up and further discussed. Remarks were made by W. R. Brown, M. L. Hurley, H. A. Albright, J. T. Whitley, W. M. Craven, S. H. Way, J. S. Lawrence, J. A. Scott, W. W. Hayworth and others, after which it was amended and unanimously adopted as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Temperance, respectfully submit the following for your consideration and approval:

The subject of Temperance is one of vast and vital importance, classed in the Holy Scriptures as the middle pillar of the Christian graces, as the fruit of the Spirit, and as the third part of the gospel of peace.

It is a fact so plain that it needs no argument to prove, that this grace is too much neglected by us as a Conference, and that intemperance in all its shades and forms is too prevalent among us. We deem it the duty of every child of God to condemn intemperance, in all its multifarious forms, and stand aloof from it. But the worst grade of intemperance, which we find to be making continual inroads into the Christian world, is that connected with spirituous liquors. That this is an evil in the Church, gigantic in magnitude, against the successful progress of the gospel, is a fact conceded by all. With this truth looking us so unpleasantly in the face, it becomes us as the followers of the King of peace, to take a bold, determined, and Bible stand against this great and increasing evil, and endeavor to rid the Church of its ruinous influence.

We recommend that Conference insist on the enforcement by the Churches of the provisions of the report adopted two years ago, as follows: "Conference makes it a duty binding upon the individual Churches, that when any of their members are known to be engaged in making, selling or drinking ardent spirits as a beverage, the Churches shall deal with such members for disorderly conduct, as may be deemed expedient. If any Church fails to do so, it shall be answerable to Conference."

H. A. ALBRIGHT,
LEWIS BRADY,
M. W. COWARD,
S. H. WAY,
} Committee.

The Committee on Home Missions presented the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Home Missions beg leave to report that the Churches have made the following arrangements for pastoral service during the coming year: Pleasant Ridge, W. W. Lawrence; Shiloh, J. S. Lawrence; Shady Grove, P. P. Humble; Parks Cross Roads, to be supplied; Union Grove, W. R. Brown, S. H. Way; New Center, J. S. Lawrence; Providence, J. S. Law-

rence; Brown's Chapel, J. S. Lawrence; New Bear Creek, J. S. Lawrence; Mt. Zion, W. W. Lawrence; Oldham's Grove, W. G. Brady.

A. S. Nelson, H. A. Albright and W. M. Craven left without a charge.

J. S. LAWRENCE,
J. E. ALBRIGHT,
O. VESTAL,
E. FREEMAN,
} Committee.

Rev. H. A. Albright resigned the office of Standing Secretary, and Bro. W. W. Hayworth was elected in his stead.

The Conference, on motion, adopted for the use of the Churches, the blank form of Church reports as used by the Eastern Virginia Conference.

The following brethren were appointed a special committee to increase the circulation of the *Christian Sun:* Rev. H. A. Albright, Rev. P. P. Humble and Rev. J. S. Lawrence.

Rev. W. R. Brown, from the Committee on Education, offered the following

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education beg leave to make the following report: As we have no institution of learning of high grade within the bounds of our Conference, we would recommend to those having children to educate, and especially young men preparing for the ministry, Graham High School, conducted by Rev. D. A. Long, at Graham, N. C., as adapted in all respects to our present wants.

No one has applied to your Committee for ordination.

Brothers Solomon Hayworth and S. M. Burns have placed themselves under our care as members of the Biblical class.

The license of Bro. S. H. Way, which was given for two years, has expired.

W. R. BROWN,
J. S. LAWRENCE,
P. P. HUMBLE,
W. G. BRADY,
H. T. MOFFITT,
} Committee.

The report was discussed by Rev. J. T. Whitley, and then adopted.

Bro. S. H. Way was ordered to be licensed for an indefinite time to preach the Gospel.

The Committee on Memoirs reported as follows, and the report was unanimously adopted:

REPORT.

Whereas, By the decree of an Allwise Providence, Rev. Joseph Albright has been taken from our midst to the rest that remains for the people of God, and

Whereas, As members of the Deep River Christian Conference, it is the dictate of both our judgment and our affections to show our esteem and love for him who has labored so long and so earnestly for the advancement of our blessed Redeemer's kingdom and the principles of the Christian Church; therefore

Resolved, That while we bow submissively under the stroke of a wise and loving Heavenly Father, we feel sorely stricken in heart by the death of our departed friend and brother, recognizing in his departure the death of an aged minister, a faithful member, an exemplary Christian, and a most useful man in all the relations of life.

Resolved, That we will endeavor to imitate his noble christian example and follow him so far as he trod in the footsteps of Christ, so that when this short life is over, we may meet him in the eternal city of God.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the beloved family of our dear departed brother, and that the resolutions be published in the *Christian Sun.*

J. A. SCOTT,
D. C. BROWN, } Committee.
JAMES STOUT,

Ministerial reports were then called for and read.

On motion, Rev. M. L. Hurley was requested to preach a sermon in memory of the late Rev. Joseph Albright, to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon.

The Conference then adjourned, to meet with the Church at Union Grove, Randolph county, N. C., on Thursday before the second Sabbath in October, 1878. The closing devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. J. S. Lawrence.

At different times during the annual session, sermons were preached by Revs. J. W. Hatch, J. T. Whitley and M. L. Hurley.

H. T. MOFFITT, PRESIDENT,
OLIVER VESTAL, VICE-PRESIDENT.

H. A. ALBRIGHT, *Secretary,*
J. A. SCOTT, *Assistant Secretary.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Received.	Removed.	Expelled.	Died.	Present Membership
Pleasant Grove	W. G. Brady	L. Brady, A. L. Needham, A. D. Leonard, H. T. Wilson, B. Perry, A. W. Leonard, T. M. Marley.	6			2	179
Shiloh	W. R. Brown	H. T. Moffitt, C. Moffitt, J. E. Albright, W. W. Hayworth.	3	3	4	3	109
Pleasant Ridge	W. R. Brown	W. Cox, J. M. Stinson, G. H. Black	1				98
Parks Cross Roads	W. R. Brown	J. Stout, M. W. Coward, O. Vestal					67
Union Grove	J. S. Lawrence	I. C. Brown, D. C. Brown, D. C. Scott	1			1	56
Shady Grove	J. S. Lawrence	E. C. Martin, J. Vuncanon	4			1	49
New Providence	J. S. Lawrence	No delegate					
New Center	W. W. Lawrence	E. Latham, L. Owen, G. L. Macon, H. Criscoe		4	1	1	106
Brown's Chapel	J. S. Lawrence	N. Nalls, E. Freeman	1		1		31
Oldham's Grove	W. G. Brady	No delegate					10
Mt. Zion	W. W. Lawrence	William Cagle					26
New Bear Creek	W. R. Brown	Thomas Brown	2				13
			18	7	6	8	744

Ministerial Reports.

W. R. BROWN.—Had charge of four Churches—Parks Cross Roads, Pleasant Ridge, Shiloh and New Bear Creek. Preached 60 sermons, several funerals, baptized 18 persons. Married several couples.

J. S. LAWRENCE.—Had charge of four Churches—Shady Grove, Union Grove, New Providence and Brown's Chapel. Preached also at a mission station. Preached about 80 sermons.

W. W. LAWRENCE.—Preached at New Center and Mt. Zion —about 40 sermons, 2 funerals, 7 baptisms, received 6 members into the Church.

W. G. BRADY.—Preached at Pleasant Grove and Oldham's Grove. Received 7 members, baptized 7 persons.

S. H. WAY.—Assisted Bro. Brady at Pleasant Grove, and Bro. Lawrence at Union Grove. Preached also at Clark's School House. Assisted in several protracted and camp meetings. Preached 25 or 30 times during the year.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

North Carolina and Virginia

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

PLEASANT GROVE, HALIFAX CO., VA.,
Friday, November 16th, 1877.

THE NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met in its fifty-second Annual Session at this place to-day.

The body was called to order by Rev. W. S. Long, President of the last session, and the following Ministers and Lay Delegates answered to their names:

ELDERS.—S. Apple, A. Apple, J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, W. G. Clements, P. W. Allen, M. L. Hurley, J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp.

LICENTIATE.—D. F. Jones.

LAY DELEGATES.—B. J. Wicker, J. H. Moring, J. T. Ball, S. T. Covington, H. A. N. Apple, J. W. Harden, B. A. Sellars, G. W. Whitsitt, J. W. Boyd, J. K. Gibson, N. M. Watson, P. H. Apple, H. C. Fulton, W. H. Buntin, J. A. Jones, D. H. Fuquay, G. S. Watson, Levi Walker, W. A. McCauley, W. C. Truitt, W. A. Sharp, B. J. Blackley, Samuel Ireland, P. J. Kernodle, S. M. Rowland, Robert Rollins, A. Moring, J. H. Howard.

After devotional services had been conducted by the temporary presiding officer, Rev. W. S. Long was chosen President of the present session.

The President then read the resignation of Rev. D. A. Long, the Standing Secretary, which was accepted.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Holt was elected Standing Secretary, and Bro. Peter J. Kernodle was chosen Assistant Secretary.

On motion, Conference decided to meet each day at 9 o'clock A. M., spend 20 minutes in prayer-meeting, adjourn at 12 M., for preaching; meet at 2 o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion, it was directed that the Annual Sermon be delivered at twelve o'clock to-morrow.

On motion, the President appointed Rev. W. G. Clements, J. T. Ball, and Dr. B. A. Sellars, a Committee to prepare a Statistical Table, showing the number of Churches connected with this Conference, and their membership.

Rev. W. G. Clements moved that the Rules of Order of last session be read and adopted for this session. Carried.

Rev. P. T. Klapp moved that Rev. J. W. Wellons, Rev. S. Apple, and Bro. T. S. Thompson, be appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises. The motion was carried.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious services by Rev. S. Apple.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, Nov. 17th, 1877.

Conference convened, the President in the Chair. Religious services by Rev. W. G. Clements.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion, Elders J. W. Hatch, C. A. Boon, R. C. Tuck, and Licentiate M. L. Winston, being present, were excused for tardiness, and seated as members of Conference.

On motion, the following Lay Delegates were excused for tardiness and their names enrolled: K. D. Holmes, M. C. Winston, W. T. Young, Z. N. Apple, J. S. Ashby, A. M. Way, G. W. Pinnix, W. N. Pritchard, B. R. Eaves, and L. G. Ayscue.

On motion, the reports from the Churches were called for, and the following were handed in and read: Morrisville, Lebanon, New Providence, Pleasant Union, O'Kelly's Chapel, Union (Va.), New Elam, Wake Chapel, Mt. Bethel, Shallow Ford, Pope's Chapel, Bethlehem, Catawba Spring, Hank's Chapel, Antioch, Shallow Well, Pleasant Hill (Johnson), Oak Level, Moore Union, Salem Chapel, Apple's Chapel, Pleasant Hill (Chatham), Concord, Mt. Zion, Martha's Chapel, Liberty Hill, Bethel, Pleasant Grove, Mt. Auburn, Hayes' Chapel, Christian Chapel, Zion (Chatham).

On motion, Rev. Wm. Slate, of the Baptist Church, was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple and E. W. Beale, Fraternal Messengers from the Eastern Virginia Conference, were invited to seats in Conference. These brethren made some appropriate remarks in accepting the invitation.

The Secretary then read a letter from Rev. G. A. T. Whitaker, of the Methodist Protestant Church, expressing fraternal feelings toward this body, and regret that he could not attend the present session, as a Fraternal Messenger from that Church.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Wellons, and lay-brothers W. N. Pritchard and A. M. Way, were appointed a Committee to examine the Church reports, and to confer with the delegates from several Churches as to why the Sacraments have not been duly observed in their Churches, nor the Quarterly Meetings regularly held.

Conference then went into the selection of a place for holding its next session. Christian Chapel and Damascus were put in nomination. Damascus, Orange county, N. C., was selected.

On motion, Bros. A. Moring, G. W. Pinnix, and J. W. Harden were appointed a Committee to examine the Church Records.

Rev. J. W. Hatch, Rev. R. C. Tuck, and Bro. H. C. Fulton were appointed to fill vacancies in the Committee on Religious Literature. Bro. A. Moring and Rev. M. L. Winston were appointed to fill vacancies in the Committee on Home Missions.

On motion, 10 o'clock A. M., Monday, was appointed as the time for the Committee on Home Missions to report.

On motion, Conference adjourned to hear the Annual Sermon, which was delivered by Rev. W. S. Long, from Ezekiel 3 : 5-7 : "For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel. * * * Surely had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee."

Afternoon Session.

Conference met, with the President in the Chair.

Fraternal Messengers appointed at the last Conference, were called upon to give an account of their visits to sister Conferences.

Rev. W. G. Clements stated that he visited the Eastern Virginia Conference, and received a kind welcome from that body. Rev. Bros. J. W. Hatch and M. L. Hurley attended the Deep River Conference, and were impressed with the hopeful prospects of that body. All the other Fraternal Messengers failed to attend the Conferences to which they had been appointed.

On motion, Conference proceeded to elect Fraternal Messengers to other Conferences, as follows : To the Eastern Virginia Conference, Rev. Bros. W. G. Clements, S. Apple, A. Apple, M. L. Hurley, W. S. Long, M. L. Winston, P. T. Klapp.— To the Deep River Conference, Rev. Bros. J. W. Hatch, S. Apple, P. T. Klapp, W. S. Long and M. L. Hurley. To the

Virginia Valley Conference, Rev. Bros. M. L. Hurley, J. W. Wellons and C. A. Boon. To the Methodist Protestant Conference, Rev. Bros. D. A. Long and J. W. Wellons. To the Methodist Episcopal Conference, Rev. Bros. W. S. Long and J. W. Holt. To superintend and advise the Colored Conference, Rev. Bros. J. W. Wellons, M. L. Winston and P. W. Allen.

A Special Committee, appointed at last Conference, then handed in the following report which was adopted :

REPORT.

We your Committee, appointed to prepare a Blank Form for recording the Minutes of Local Churches, and for keeping Church Rolls, beg leave to report :

We find it difficult to present a form for recording the minutes of Quarterly Conferences, more than that the name of the Church, the date of meeting, Pastor presiding, reports of Committees and Church officers, resolutions and orders adopted by the Church, and all other business transacted by the Quarterly Conference, pertaining to the workings of the Church, should be duly recorded, and attested by the signature of the Secretary.

We recommend the accompanying blank, as a suitable form for keeping Church rolls :

No.	Names.	When Joined.	How Received.	Expelled.	Dismissed.	Died.	Remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. HOLT,
W. G. CLEMENTS, } Committee.

On motion, it was directed that the Ministerial Reports should be called for at 9½ o'clock Monday morning.

The Committee on Religious Exercises then reported : Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach in this house Sunday at 11 o'clock ; Rev. E. W. Beale, at 2 o'clock P. M.; Rev. P. T. Klapp, in the Academy, at 11 o'clock A. M.; Rev. C. A. Apple, Monday, at 12 o'clock M.; Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach, or deliver a Temperance address, Wednesday, at 12 o'clock M.; Rev. W. G. Clements, Tuesday, at 12 o'clock M.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious services by Rev. C. A. Boon.

THIRD DAY.

MONDAY, November 19, 1877.

Conference convened, with the President in the Chair. Religious services by Rev. P. W. Allen.

The minutes of Saturday's session were read, and, after some corrections, were adopted.

Ministerial Reports were called for, and the following ministers handed in reports: Chastien Allen, P. W. Allen, A. Apple, S. Apple, C. A. Boon, W. G. Clements, D. T. Deanes, J. W. Hatch, H. B. Hayes, J. W. Holt, M. L. Hurley, P. T. Klapp, W. S. Long, D. A. Long, J. W. Pinnix, W. W. Staley, R. G. Tinnen, W. T. Walker, J. W. Wellons, A. F. Iseley, D. F. Jones, M. L. Winston.

At the close of the reading of the Ministerial Reports, Conference united with Rev. S. Apple in prayer, in behalf of our absent and afflicted brethren, Revs. T. J. Fowler and S. I. Ellis.

The Committee on Home Missions submitted their report, which was discussed by Rev. Bros. W. G. Clements, J. T. Whitley and Bros. J. T. Ball, and A. Moring, and adopted as follows:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Home Missions, ask leave to report, that during the past Conference year no systematic efforts were put forth for the sending out of missionaries and the establishment of new Churches. We regret that so little progress has been made, and would express the strong hope that measures may be adopted during the present session to give efficiency to our work in the direction of Missions.

In the opinion of your Committee, there are many places within the bounds of Conference, and adjacent thereto, where Christian Churches might be established, if systematic efforts were employed. In every city, town, village and country-place in the States represented in this body, a Church or Churches might be organized, had we an adequate missionary fund and ministers able and willing to enter upon the great missionary work. We earnestly hope that this Conference will at once devise some plan to raise money for the prosecution of this cause.

We recommend that the Missionary Society, connected with this body, shall disband and transfer its work to the Committee on Home Missions, in preparation for a systematic and persevering effort on the part of the Committee to raise a Missionary Fund, so as to enable the Conference to send forth missionaries, establish Churches, and disseminate the principles of the Christian Church.

Respectfully submitted,

W. G. CLEMENTS,
M. L. WINSTON,
ALFRED MORING,
} Committee.

On motion, Rev. C. W. Wood, of the Baptist Church, was invited to a seat in Conference.

The Committee on Sunday Schools made their report, which was discussed by Rev. Bros. P. T. Klapp, C. A. Apple, and J. T. Whitley, after which it was adopted.

REPORT.

We are much gratified to state that most of the Churches of this Conference have Sabbath Schools, there being twenty-seven Schools in operation. Feeling

the importance of this work, we would urge upon every member of this body, the necessity of making greater efforts for the advancement of the Sunday School cause; for we believe the Sunday School to be the nursery of the Church, and that it is highly important that we give attention to the training of the little ones. We, therefore, suggest:

1. That pastors, superintendents and teachers do all in their power to become familiar with the best methods of work, in order to a higher degree of efficiency in their respective Schools.

2. That the officers do all they can to increase the attractions of the Schools, so as to attract the young; and especially that they discountenance useless addresses to their scholars.

3. That Schools exercise much caution in choosing superintendents and teachers. None should be chosen to these important positions, except earnest, pious, self-denying brethren and sisters, who are possessed of sufficient literary attainments.

4. That Bible classes be organized, for the special benefit of parents and guardians, as we have been pained by their lack of interest during the past year.

P. T. KLAPP, } Committee.
D. F. JONES, }

Conference adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met, with the President in the Chair.

Rev. S. Apple was called to the Chair, and Rev. W. S. Long offered the following resolutions, which were adopted by a unanimous vote:

1. *Resolved*, That this Conference now appoint three Ministers to meet and confer with a like number of ministers appointed on the part of the brethren composing the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, in reference to a union of the two bodies.

2. *Resolved*, That the brethren appointed, be instructed to secure a conference with the brethren appointed on the part of the Methodist Protestant Conference, at an early date; and should the number of representatives appointed by the Methodist brethren be larger than three, or should any of those we now appoint be unable to attend the proposed meeting, then the number shall be increased by the members of the Committee who may be able to attend.

Rev. Bros. S. Apple, W. S. Long and J. W. Wellons were elected the Committee, in accordance with the above resolutions.

The Secretary read a series of resolutions setting forth a plan for future operations. The resolutions were discussed by Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley and C. A. Apple.

Pending the discussion, Conference adjourned.

FOURTH DAY.

TUESDAY, NOV. 20, 1877.

Conference convened, with the President in the Chair. Religious services by Rev. J. W. Hatch.

The resolutions laid over from yesterday, were then further discussed by Bro. A. Moring, Rev. W. S. Long, Rev. J. W. Holt, Rev. M. L. Winston, and Bros. Ball, Way and others.

A motion to indefinitely postpone was lost. The resolutions were then adopted, as follows:

Whereas, The chief business of this Conference at its annual sessions is to consider Education, Home Missions, Sabbath Schools, Publications, and kindred subjects, and lay plans for the promotion of the interests of the Churches in respect to these subjects; and

Whereas, Conference works mainly through its Committees, appointed to consider the several subjects; and

Whereas, It is desirable that the work of the Conference shall be more efficiently done, and consequently that the several committees shall more clearly understand what work they are expected to do, and shall address themselves more actively to their duties; therefore,

I. *Resolved*, That this Conference shall appoint the following Standing Committees of five members each: On Education, Home Missions, Sabbath Schools, and Religious Literature.

II. *Resolved*, That these Committees be instructed as follows with reference to their work:

1. EDUCATION.—The Committee on Education, in addition to any other duties imposed by the Form of Government, is expected to direct its attention to two objects—the promotion of the general cause of Education within the boundaries of Conference, and the training of young men for the ministry. To accomplish these objects, this Committee should thoroughly organize itself for work and operate actively during the interim between the annual sessions. Sub-committees of one or more members each should be appointed to accomplish the following objects: (1.) To circulate educational literature as far as possible among our people, provide for public addresses on Education at different points when deemed advisable, and co-operate with the Graham High School, and other Schools among us, in educating the masses of our people. (2.) To search out personally and with the help of pastors and others, from among the Churches, such intelligent and pious youths and young men as aspire to the work of the ministry and give promise of usefulness, and to encourage them in their desire. (3.) To solicit and collect from the Churches and elsewhere money, provisions, and other things for the support of such youths and young men as are studying for the ministry among us and are unable to sustain themselves while in process of training. The Committee should use all means in its power to foster general education, and to thoroughly train as many candidates as possible for preaching and pastoral work.

2. HOME MISSIONS.—The Committee on Home Missions, in addition to any other duties which may be imposed by the Form of Government, is expected to address itself diligently to the accomplishment of two things—the raising of a permanent missionary fund, and the establishment of missionary stations by sending out paid laborers to such points as it may be deemed expedient to occupy. The Committee should, therefore, so organize itself as, (1.) To make a thorough canvass of the Churches with a view to accumulating the desired missionary fund, investing all funds collected so as to place them at the disposal of

Conference in its missionary operations. (2.) To ascertain the most inviting fields for missionary labor, and report them to Conference at its annual sessions, with such recommendations as may seem best. This Committee shall have control of all the missionary operations of Conference, except such matters as shall be reserved by the body for action at its annual sessions. Only the Conference in annual session shall have power to appoint missionaries and disburse missionary funds; but the Committee should obtain all information which will be valuable to the body, and submit it to Conference with recommendations.

3. Sabbath Schools.—The Committee on Sabbath Schools, in addition to any other duties imposed by the Form of Government, is expected to give special attention to promoting the efficiency of existing schools and establishing new ones at such points as it may be thought best to occupy. It should, therefore, be organized for active labor by the appointment of sub-committees, (1.) To seek information as to the most improved and efficient methods of Sunday School work, and disseminate such information among the schools connected with the Conference. (2.) To ascertain the best places to establish new schools, and to secure their establishment.

4. Religious Literature.—The Committee on Religious Literature should devote its energies to disseminating good literature among our people, and in such other places as may be possible. It should organize in such a way as (1.) To secure the circulation of our denominational paper in all the Churches —if possible, in every family. (2.) To have published and distributed from time to time such tracts, papers and other literature as will, in their judgment, promote our interests as a Conference.

III. *Resolved*, That, in order to give proper consideration to the reports of these Committees, and to take careful action upon their recommendations, the Committees be required to report at the following times: The Committee on Sabbath Schools, the first day of the session; the Committee on Religious Literature, on the morning of the second day; the Committee on Home Missions, on the morning of the third day; and the Committee on Education, on the morning of the fourth day. The other business of Conference shall be so disposed of as not to interfere with the full consideration of these reports, which shall have all the precedence usually yielded to special orders of the day.

IV. *Resolved*, That, in order to enable the various Committees to reach the Churches and the people, in advocating the claims of the different causes which they represent, a series of mass meetings shall be held throughout the Conference during the year, and that the congregations present at these meetings shall be addressed by speakers on such subjects as Education, Religious Literature, Home Missions and Sabbath Schools; and, furthermore, that subscriptions and collections be taken up at these meetings for the benefit of the various enterprises represented.

V. *Resolved*, That the Churches composing the Conference be grouped together in Districts, as follows:

First District.—Pleasant Grove, Pisgah, Lebanon, Union (Va.), Concord.

Second District.—Hines' Chapel, Apple's Chapel, Shallow Ford, Bethlehem, Union (N. C.), Salem Chapel, Mt. Bethel.

Third District.—Damascus, O'Kelly's, Martha's Chapel, New Providence, Mt. Zion, Morrisville, Pleasant Hill (Chatham).

Fourth District.—Pope's Chapel, Good Hope, Mt. Auburn, Oak Level, Liberty Hill.

Fifth District.—Hayes' Chapel, Wake Chapel, Catawba Springs, Pleasant Hill (Johnson), Pleasant Union.

Sixth District.—Christian Chapel, New Elam, Zion, Shallow Well, Moore Union, Hanks' Chapel, Antioch, Bethel.

VI. *Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed, to act as a Commit-

tee of Arrangements, whose duty it shall be to decide upon times and places for holding District Meetings and Auxiliary Mass Meetings, to arrange programmes, to appoint speakers, and to supervise the holding of these meetings; and that this Committee shall make a full report to the next Annual Conference.

The body then took a recess for refreshments.

Afternoon Session.

Conference met, the President in the Chair.

On motion, Dr. B. A. Sellars and Bro. G. W. Whitsitt, were excused from further attendance upon Conference.

On motion, it was ordered that letters, expressive of Christian salutation and regard, be prepared and signed by the President and Secretary of this body, and forwarded to Rev. Bros. T. J. Fowler and S. I. Ellis.

Rev. C. A. Boon offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due, and are hereby tendered, to Rev. W. S. Long, for the able and instructive discourse delivered at the opening of this Conference.

The Committee on Religious Literature then reported the following, which was discussed by Rev. Bros. M. L. Winston, C. A. Apple, E. W. Beale, J. T. Whitley, and Bro. J. T. Ball, and then adopted:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Religious Literature, beg leave to report as follows:

1. That the work of this Committee, as well as that of some other Committees of your body, has not been so efficient as it ought to have been. No instructions, as regards systematic work, have ever been given us, and we confess that we have never devised any plans which could be considered effective. We confess that we might have done better, and perhaps, ought to have done so; but we have simply done as others have been doing for so many years. We trust that measures may be at once adopted, giving this, and other Committees definite instructions in regard to regular work in this, and other general enterprises of the Church.

2. The *Christian Sun*, published by Dunbar & Whitley, of Suffolk, Va., is the recognized organ of our Church, and is well worthy the support of our people. Ably edited, full of interesting communications and selections, a clear and faithful exponent of our denominational principles, we know not how it could be materially improved under present circumstances. We regret to say, however, that this paper is receiving far less support than its own merits, or the interest of the cause, would demand. We would state, however, that a few of our brethren are doing their whole duty; but no system of general and regular work for the circulation of the paper has ever yet been entered upon. We recommend that a suitable opportunity be given to Rev. J. T. Whitley, and others who may desire it, to make a public effort, during the present sitting of Conference, to increase the circulation of the *Christian Sun*.

3. We know of few things more desirable, at present than the publication and thorough circulation, outside the territory occupied by our people, of one

or more books or tracts, setting forth the distinctive principles and mission of our Church. Hoping that, in future, there will be not less talking and writing upon this subject, but more active work, our report is

Respectfully submitted,

M. L. HURLEY,
M. L. WINSTON, } Committee.

After the address by the Editor of the *Sun*, and the adoption of the report, a canvass was made, which resulted in obtaining a large number of subscribers to the Church paper.

On motion, Conference directed the Secretary to publish the minutes of the present session in the Christian ANNUAL.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Statistical Table of the Churches and their membership, then handed in their report, which was adopted. This report will be found in the form of a Statistical Table, at the end of these minutes.

On motion, Conference went into the election of representatives to the General Convention of the Christian Church.

The following Elders were elected: W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons, S. Apple, W. G. Clements, A. Apple.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

FIFTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 21, 1877.

Conference convened, the President in the Chair. Religious services by Rev. M. L. Winston.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Conference proceeded to the election of Lay Representatives to the General Convention. The following were elected: J. T. Ball, P. R. Harden, J. M. Moring, L. R. Crocker, G. W. Pinnix.

On motion, the following Alternates were elected: Elders—P. T. Klapp, A. G. Anderson, D. A. Long, M. L. Hurley, J. W. Holt. Laymen—J. W. Boyd, J. D. Gunter, W. K. Martin, G. S. Watson.

A Special Committee then reported, as follows:

REPORT.

Your Special Committee, appointed to settle the difficulty in reference to the Newbern Church building, submit the following report:

In the early part of January last, the Chairman of the Committee went to Newbern and remained several days. He succeeded in compromising the difficulty with the colored Christians, who were then the occupants, by paying them $137.50. This added to the entire expense of the sale of the property, leaves $87.05 still in hand.

But the Committee has been notified that the colored people have brought suit against Rev. E. M. Forbes, the purchaser of said property, and the Chairman has been notified that he will be subpœnaed to attend Craven Court as a witness and also notified not to pay said money out until the suit has been decided.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. WELLONS, Chairman.

The report was adopted, and the same Committee continued.

The Committee on Home Missions made the following final report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions would report that the following arrangements have been made with Ministers and Churches for preaching the ensuing year:

W. S. Long—Union, (N. C.), Damascus, Hank's Chapel. W. G. Clements—O'Kelly's, Wake Chapel, Catawba Springs, Hayes' Chapel. J. W. Hatch—Antioch, Moore Union. P. T. Klapp—Morrisville, Christian Chapel, Zion, Shallow Well. C. A. Boon—Martha's Chapel. A. F. Iseley—Pleasant Hill (Chatham). D. A. Long—New Providence. W. H. Franks—Pleasant Union, Pleasant Hill (Johnson). J. W. Pinnix—Salem Chapel, Mt. Bethel. A. G. Anderson—Apple's Chapel, Concord. D. T. Deanes—Liberty School House. J. W. Wellons—Mt. Auburn, Pleasant Grove (Va.) J. W. Holt—Pope's Chapel, Oak Level, Liberty Hill, Good Hope. D. F. Jones—Bethlehem, Shallow Ford. M. L. Hurley—Lebanon.

New Elam, Hines' Chapel, Mt. Pisgah, Union (Va.), Mt. Zion, Bethel, Reece's Chapel, Pleasant Grove (N. C.), have as yet made no arrangements for preaching.

W. G. CLEMENTS,
M. L. WINSTON,
A. MORING,
} Committee.

The Executive Committee reported the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee would report, that they found the office of Treasurer vacant, and appointed Bro. Alfred Moring to fill the vacancy until the meeting of Conference.

They would further report, that in the month of January last, Mrs. Susan F. Phillips died, in the town of Graham, N. C., leaving her entire estate to be equally divided between the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference; the interest accruing to be used for the benefit of superannuated ministers and their widows and orphans, after paying one hundred dollars each to her two children. The interest of the estate is worth about $2,500 or 3,000.

The Committee held a meeting at Morrisville, N. C., April 14th, 1877, and there decided to join with the Methodist Church, and put the will to probate, and to employ Col. Thomas Ruffin as their counsel. B. F. Long, Esq., who had been requested by Rev. D. A. Long, Secretary of the Conference, to act in the interest of the Conference, gave us valuable assistance in the matter. On the 11th of April, the Chairman of the Committee met the representatives of the Methodist Church in Graham, and the will was probated; and on the 25th of April, the Probate Judge appointed J. E. Boyd, Esq., Administrator. Mr.

Boyd had been previously appointed agent for the estate. A part of the property is now in litigation, and a suit is pending, that may require some time to decide. But the matter is wholly in the hands of the administrator. We are made one of the heirs under the will, whatever may be our portion. Our attorney has had nothing to do yet in the interest of the Church, but has been employed as counsel by the administrator. The Committee now submit the whole matter to Conference, and recommend that some one be appointed to take charge of the matter, with full authority to act in the interest of the Conference, and with instructions to report to the next session of this body his action in the matter. The Committee have had considerable trouble and some expense about the matter.

Nothing else has claimed our attention during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. WELLONS,
W. G. CLEMENTS,
ALFRED MORING,
J. W. HATCH,
} Committee.

John M. Moring, Esq., was appointed additional counsel, in accordance with the report of the Executive Committee.

Rev. M. L. Winston offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we hereby tender our thanks to the citizens of this community, who have entertained us so well during the sitting of this Conference.

Resolved, That we appreciate the kindness extended to us by the Railroads, in passing delegates and visitors for one fare.

The Committee on Church Records reported the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Church Records, have examined the records of the following Churches:

Shallow Well, Pleasant Grove, Hank's Chapel, Zion, New Providence, Hines' Chapel, Pleasant Hill, Christian Chapel,—and, in form, find them properly kept.

Respectfully submitted,

A. MORING,
G. W. PINNIX,
J. W. HARDEN,
} Committee.

The Committee on Education then submitted their report, which was discussed by Rev. Bros. W. S. Long, C. A. Apple, W. G. Clements, and J. T. Whitley, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education ask leave to report:

We wish again to call the attention of your body to the great importance of training our children. We deem it almost useless to remind you that no class of people, and certainly no religious denomination, can prosper, that neglects the education of its children.

We are glad to be able to announce to you, that our people are in many places earnestly at work in this direction, and that many young men and women have had good opportunities afforded them in schools and colleges. The

spirit of education is evidently growing among us; yet we are not exerting ourselves in behalf of this cause as we should, and to the extent of our ability.—We recommend our ministers and laymen generally, to redouble their efforts in endeavoring to arouse our people to a proper sense of their duty in this matter.

We have examined David F. Jones, as to his qualification for ordination, and, while he is not fully up to our requirements in the literary branches, yet, finding that his labors have been abundantly useful with the Churches at Bethlehem, Shallow Ford and other places, and in consideration of the fact that he is now in school preparing himself for this work, we, therefore, recommend him for ordination.

Brother John A. Jones came before our Committee during this Conference, recommended by the Church at Wake Chapel, and has been admitted into the Biblical class.

W. S. LONG,
S. APPLE, } Committee.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

Education.—D. A. Long, S. Apple, A. G. Anderson, W. W. Staley.

Home Missions.—W. G. Clements, J. W. Wellons, P. T. Klapp, J. M. Moring.

Religious Literature.—J. W. Holt, M. L. Hurley, J. W. Hatch, P. W. Allen, M. L. Winston, A. Moring.

Sunday Schools.—P. T. Klapp, D. F. Jones, A. F. Iseley.

Temperance.—M. L. Hurley, A. Apple, B. J. Blackley, J. N. Farrell.

Executive Committee.—J. W. Wellons, W. G. Clements, P. W. Allen, Alfred Moring.

Committee of Arrangements for District Meetings.—W. G. Clements, D. A. Long.

On motion, the President of Conference, Rev. W. S. Long, was made Chairman of the Committees on Education and Arrangements for District Meetings.

On motion, the hour of 3 o'clock, P. M., was set apart for the ordination of Rev. D. F. Jones.

Rev. S. Apple moved that Conference renew the request offered by Bro. P. R Harden, at last Conference, that the Churches pay certain amounts for the purpose of liquidating certain claims against this body. Adopted. And it was further directed that the amounts requested of the different Churches be diminished by one third.

The Committee on Temperance then reported the following, which was discussed by J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp, A. M. Way, and others, and then adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to submit their report:
Notwithstanding much has been done to remove intemperance from our land,

still thousands are annually falling from the fatal effects of strong drink, and the manufacture and traffic of ardent spirits continue almost wholly unrebuked:

Men continue to sacrifice home and happiness, society and friendship, health and beauty, wealth and honor, heaven and immortality, time and eternity, upon the shrine of intemperance. This weight of degradation falls with humiliating force upon the Church. It wounds her integrity, weakens her influence, saps the fountain of her vitality, and, as it were, destroys her very life's blood, until an attempt to rebuke the evil but exposes Christianity to the taunts of its enemies.

The Temperance organizations throughout our land have measurably failed to accomplish the end desired, though they have done much in restraining men from the use of strong drink.

We think the Church, the personal influence of its members, and the teachings of Christianity, the true and most effectual means by which Temperance principles can be taught to the world.

Therefore, we recommend that the members of each local Church, belonging to this Conference, organize themselves into a society, for the purpose of reforming the dangerous practices of men, by subscribing to a pledge that will prohibit the manufacture, traffic, or use, as a beverage, of any spirituous or malt liquors.

We think the Church should take decided ground on this question, and not tolerate the manufacture, traffic, or use, as a beverage, of ardent spirits by its members.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. HOLT,
A. APPLE,
B. J. BLACKLEY, } Committee.

Rev. J. W. Wellons, Chairman of a Special Committee, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee, appointed to examine into the causes of the neglect, on the part of some of the Churches, to hold their Quarterly Meetings and to have the ordinances regularly administered, would report: At Salem Chapel, Mt. Bethel, and Catawba Springs, the causes were bad weather and some neglect in preparing the emblems. At Bethlehem, their minister, Bro. D. F. Jones, not being ordained, could not administer the ordinances. At Liberty Hill, service was held during the week by J. W. Wellons, in consequence of the failure of their minister to serve, and he could not attend the Quarterly Meetings. We have no means of ascertaining the causes of neglect on the part of the Churches at Mt. Zion, and Pleasant Hill (Johnson).

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. WELLONS,
A. M. WAY, } Committee.

The report was briefly discussed and adopted.

A recess was then taken for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference was called to order at 3 o'clock, by the President.

The Ordaining Presbytery, Rev. Bros. W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons, and S. Apple, then proceeded to set apart Bro. D. F. Jones to the office of an elder in the Christian Church.

On motion, Conference then adjourned, to meet with the Church at Damascus, Orange county, N. C., on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in November, 1878. Prayer was offered by the President.

W. S. LONG, PRESIDENT.

JEREMIAH W. HOLT, *Secretary.*
P. J. KERNODLE, *Assistant Secretary.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Number of Members reported last session.	Received since.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Present number of Communicants.	Amount paid the Pastor.	Paid for Education.	For other Purposes.	Total amount Paid.	Value of Church Property.
O'Kelly's Chapel	W. G. Clements	129	3	4	2	1	125	$115		$60	$175	$350
New Elam	P. T. Klapp	101	8	6	1	1	101	37	3 65		40	600
Hines' Chapel	W. S. Long	76	..	..	..	..	81					
Mt. Bethel	J. W. Pinnix	38	11	3	..	..	46	17			17	400
Liberty Hill	J. W. Wellons	69	7	..	2	2	72	33		1	34	
Pleasant Hill (Chat)	A. F. Iseley	71	37	..	2	1	105	40		22	62	200
Pleasant Grove (Va.)	J. W. Wellons	95	3	..	2	..	96	225	8 00	3	236	1,500
Concord	A. G. Anderson	53	2	2	..	..	53	20			20	200
Christian Chapel	P. T. Klapp	169	30	1	2	8	188	90	8 00		98	800
Shallow Well	P. T. Klapp	115	18	..	1	2	130	75		50	125	1,400
Shallow Ford	A. F. Iseley	79	13	..	1	..	91	10		10	20	300
Mt. Pisgah	M. L. Hurley		..	..	..	..	28					
Pleasant Union	W. H. Franks	50	1	1	..	..	50					
Moore Union	W. G. Brady	40	4	..	..	..	44					300
New Providence	D. A. Long	253	45	2	4	..	292	200	74		274	3,000
Catawba Spring	W. H. Franks	97	..	2	..	..	95					
Mt. Auburn	D. A. Long	91	32	12	1	..	110	175	20	20	215	1,000
Union, (Va)	M. L. Hurley	150	10	..	1	..	159	125			125	1,000
Antioch	J. W. Hatch	70	6	2	..	..	74					250
Hanks' Chapel	W. S. Long	160	..	..	2	2	156	150			150	400
Pleasant Hill, (J'n)	W. H. Franks	55	19	6	..	1	67					
Morrisville	W. G. Clements	12	3	..	..	..	15	40	..	3	43	500
Oak Level	J. W. Wellons	74	3	2	1	..	74	60	1 50		61	800
Hayes' Chapel	W. G. Clements	77	8	1	..	3	81	55		15	70	600
Mt. Zion	J. W. Pinnix	29	..	..	1	1	27	13			13	200
Damascus	W. S. Long	97	7	..	..	..	104					
Lebanon	M. L. Hurley	62	6	2	..	..	66					500
Apple's Chapel	A. G. Anderson	184	8	..	3	1	188	39			39	300
Good Hope	J. W. Wellons	63	7	..	1	..	69	50		2	52	
Pope's Chapel	J. W. Wellons	187	13	..	..	..	200	100		2	102	1,500
Bethlehem	A. F. Iseley	146	5	1	1	..	149	25		18	44	300
Salem Chapel	J. W. Pinnix	123	7	..	1	4	125					600
Martha's Chapel	C. A. Boon	32	..	..	..	..	32	40			40	500
Union, (N. C.)	W. S. Long	265	8	..	2	..	271	100			100	800
Wake Chapel	W. G. Clements	163	7	1	1	1	167	50		20	70	500
Bethel			..	..	..	..	30					
Reece's Chapel			..	..	..	..	30					
Pleasant Grove(N.C.)			..	..	..	..	25					
Liberty Sch'l House	D. T. Deanes	35	6	..	..	..	41	22		..	22	
Zion	P. T. Klapp	149	6	1	..	3	151	80		6	86	300

TOTAL: Reported last session, 3,659; received since, 233; withdrawn, 49; died, 32; expelled, 31; present number of communicants, 4,008; paid pastors, $1,989; for education, $114.; other purposes, $233.; total paid out, $2,336.; value of Church property $19,100.

Ministerial Reports.

S. Apple.—Preached occasionally during the past year, attended two protracted meetings, and superintended a Sunday School at Lebanon.

J. W. Wellons.—Had charge of Good Hope, Oak Level, Pope's Chapel and Pleasant Grove; had 33 converts and 30 additions to the Church.

P. W. Allen.—Had no regular charge, but preached occasionally.

M. L. Hurley.—Had charge of Union (Va.), Lebanon and Mt. Pisgah; also preached at Blue Wing Academy. Visited the Deep River Conference.

W. S. Long.—Had charge of Union, (N. C.), Damascus, Hines' Chapel and Hanks' Chapel. Held protracted meetings at each, and received several members into the Church. Have looked after the enterprises of the Church.

W. G. Clements.—Had the pastoral charge of four Churches; preached about 120 times.

J. W. Hatch.—Had charge of Antioch Church, and was messenger to Deep River Conference.

W. T. Walker.—Labored in the bounds of the Virginia Valley Conference.

H. B. Hayes.—Had no charge.

W. W. Staley.—Was engaged in teaching in Graham High School, preaching and Sabbath School work. I shall return to these, after leaving the University of Virginia.

M. L. Winston.—Preached where opportunities were presented.

R. G. Tinnen.—Had no charge, but preached occasionally.

A. F. Iseley.—Had charge of three Churches; 55 members were received into my Churches.

D. T. Deanes.—Had charge of the Church at Liberty School House, and attended the Methodist Protestant Conference, as Fraternal Messenger.

C. A. Boon.—Had charge of Martha's Chapel, and preached at Bethel.

Chastien Allen.—Had no charge.

J. W. Pinnix.—Had the care of three Churches. Hope to have another Church to make application for admission into our body next Conference.

D. A. Long.—Had charge of Mt. Auburn and New Providence, and am Principal of Graham High School.

D. F. Jones.—Have preached in connection with Rev. A. F. Iseley, and labored in several protracted meetings.

J. W. Holt.—Have taught school and preached as opportunity afforded, and labored in protracted meetings.

P. T. Klapp.—Had charge of four Churches regularly, and five part of the time; had 115 converts, 65 admissions into my Churches; preached at other points as opportunity was presented.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Sunday School Convention

OF THE

Eastern Virginia Conference.

UNION, SOUTHAMPTON CO., VA.,
Tuesday, July 17, 1877.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION OF THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE, convened here to-day in its tenth Annual Session, and was called to order by the President, Rev. J. T. Whitley.

The following officers were present:

President—Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Vice President—Rev. E. W. Beale.

Secretary—Rev. J. Pressley Barrett.

Treasurer, pro tem,—R. H. Rawles.

The Convention was opened with devotional exercises conducted by the President.

The following ministers and delegates were enrolled:

Ministers—C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, J. Pressley Barrett, E. W. Beale, R. H. Holland, J. T. Kitchen, J. T. Whitley, J. N. Manning, H. H. Butler.

Delegates—Antioch—B. F. Roberts, T. J. Clements, A. M. Eley, S. J. Carr, A. A. Carr. Barretts—R. E. Barrett, W. E. Branch, B. F. Wellons. Cypress—Charles Brothers. Hebron—R. H. Holland, J. J. Daughtrey, R. W. Holland. Holy Neck—John Oberry, H. A. Rawls, P. H. Lee. Ivor—G. T. Rawls. Johnson's Grove—M. W. Butler, J. P. Davis. Liberty Spring—A. J. Rabey, F. E. Parker, L. P Brinkley. Mt. Carmel—J. H. English, I. W. Duck, B. T. Carr, T. M. Pierce, Mills Britt, John Duck, W. I. Joyner, S. W. Johnson. Oakland—John U. Newman, T. J. Saunders, John B. Whitehead. Providence—John W. Hyslop. Spring Hill—S. T. Drewry. Suffolk—Dr. F. W. Tatem, R. H. Rawles, James R. Baker.

Union—Jethro Cobb, J. T. Johnson, R. A. Ricks. Holland's —R. L. Holland, Wm. H. Byrd.

The President announced as the next business in order, the election of officers.

Rev. J. T. Whitley and Rev. C. A. Apple were nominated for the Presidency. The election resulted in the choice of Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Rev. E. W. Beale was re-elected Vice President by acclamation.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett tendered his resignation as Secretary; it was accepted, and Bro. R. H. Rawles was unanimously elected to fill the position.

The Convention then went into the election of three members to fill vacancies in the Executive Council, with the following result: Bros. J. R. Baker, F. W. Tatem, and D. B. Dunbar. (The President and Secretary of the Convention are *ex-officio* members of the Council).

The President then appointed the following members a Committee on Finance: Bros. T. J. Clements, John W. Hyslop, and A. J. Rabey.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the President appointed the following members a Committee on Publications, with instructions to recommend the best lesson books and papers to be used by the Schools: Rev. C. A. Apple, Rev. J. N. Manning and Rev. R. H. Holland.

At this stage the President introduced to the Convention, Rev. J. P. Woodward, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and invited him to take part in the deliberations of the body.

The hour for the Introductory Address having arrived, the President introduced Rev. J. N. Manning, who at some length addressed the Convention very pleasantly and forcibly on "The Claims of the Sunday School upon the Church and the World."

Bro. H. T. West, Superintendent of Spring Hill, Bro. J. T. Harris, Superintendent of Sunnyside, and Bro. W. W. Harris, delegate from the latter School, came in and took their seats.

The Secretary then read reports from the following Schools:

Antioch, Barrett's, Cypress, Holland's, Hebron, Holy Neck, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Providence, Sunnyside, Spring Hill, Suffolk and Union.

The Convention then took a recess until 2:30 P. M.

Afternoon Session.

At 2:30 P. M., the Convention assembled, and was called to order by the President.

After brief religious exercises, the Vice President took the Chair, and Rev. J. T. Whitley delivered an address on "How to Manage a Sunday School," and was followed on the same subject by Rev. C. A. Apple.

Rev. E. W. Beale was announced as the next speaker, who in an able and attractive style discussed the subject, "Adult Classes," and was followed in a general discussion by Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. C. A. Apple and Bro. I. W. Duck.

The Convention then adjourned, to meet to-morrow (Wednesday) morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, July 18, 1877.

The Convention met, pursuant to adjournment, was called to order by the President, and spent a short time in prayer and praise.

The roll was called, and the minutes of the previous day's session read and approved.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett moved that the Convention go into consideration of the time and place of the next annual meeting. The motion was unanimously adopted. The Vice President then took the Chair, and Rev. J. T. Whitley moved that the time of the annual meeting be changed, and that hereafter this Convention meet each year in connection with the Second District Meeting of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference, adding one day more to the session of the said District Meeting. The motion was argued by Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. J. N. Manning, Dr. F. W. Tatem, Bro. John Oberry, Bro. I. W. Duck, Rev. E. W. Beale, and Rev. C. A. Apple, and was finally unanimously adopted.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the Executive Council was charged with the selection of the next place of meeting.

The Committee on Publications then made the following

REPORT.

Your Committee, appointed to consider Sunday School Literature, with especial reference to publications containing "Scripture Lessons," beg leave to report: That there are many publications now in the field, which are very well suited to the wants of our schools, combining simplicity and cheapness with sufficient fulness and accuracy for our purpose. We make especial mention of the lesson papers published by the American Sunday School Union, the "Scholars' Hand Book," published by the same Society, the lesson leaves and "Scholars' Quarterly," published by John Wanamaker, of the "Sunday School Times." Upon the whole we consider the "Scholars' Quarterly" the best of all the competitors now in the field, and would more especially recom-

mend that or "The Scholars' Hand Book," for the use of our schools. Where money is scarce schools might use an admixture of one of these publications with the cheaper lesson leaves. We would by all means urgently recommend that all our schools use the "International Series of Uniform Lessons" as the easiest and the best. The "Sunday School Times," "Sunday School World," and "National Sunday School Teacher," are all admirable helps for teachers. We do not deem it necessary to make any further recommendations at present.

Respectfully submitted, C. A. APPLE, *Chairman.*

The report was discussed by several members, and, on motion of Bro. H. H. Butler, was adopted. The Committee on Finance then made the following

REPORT.

We, your Committee appointed to audit the Finances of the Convention, beg leave to state that we have examined the Treasurer's account and found it correct, and also to submit the following:

In the hands of the Treasurer to date,	$29 98
Amount paid in at this Convention,	18 21
Amount in the Treasury,	$48 19

We further report a small delinquency on the part of some of the schools.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. CLEMENTS,
JNO. W. HYSLOP, } Committee.
A. J. RABEY,

Rev. C. A. Apple then addressed the Convention, in a most interesting manner, on "The Primary Class," illustrating his speech by blackboard exercises. The subject then elicited further discussion from Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley, J. N. Manning and E. W. Beale.

The President introduced as the last regular speaker of the session, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, who spoke eloquently of "The Sunday School Teacher and his Work."

The President then called for short speeches from the superintendents and delegates of the various schools, in regard to their local work.

The report of the school at Berea, Nansemond county, was received and read, and the name of R. B. Phelps, a delegate, was placed upon the roll.

The Secretary offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be, and that they are hereby tendered to the pastor of the Church at this place, to this congregation, and to the citizens of this community generally, for their polite, kind and hospitable treatment of the members of this body and the visitors attending its present session.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the Convention then adjourned *sine die*.

J. T. WHITLEY, PRESIDENT.

R. H. RAWLES, *Secretary*.

Ministerial Directory.

ELDERS.

Albright, H. A.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Allen, Chastien.....Oxford, N. C.
Allen, P. W.....Oxford, N. C.
Anderson, A. G. Anderson's Store, N.C.
Apple, Alfred Red Bank, Va.
Apple, Solomon.....Milton, N. C.
Apple, C. A Suffolk, Va.
Ausley, J. B.....Jonesborough, N. C.
Barrett, S. S.....Norfolk, Va.
Barrett, M. B. Ivor, Va.
Barrett, J. Pressley.....Windsor, Va.
Beale, E. W Suffolk, Va.
Boon, C. A.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Brown, Wm. R.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Brady, W. G.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Burrow, John.....Wedowee, Ala.
Clements, W. G.....Morrisville, N. C.
Cofield, Lewis.....Wedowee, Ala.
Craven, Wm. M....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Deanes, D. T.....Summerfield, N. C.
Elder, J. D.....Milltown, Ala.
Elder, T. H.....Milltown, Ala.
Farrell, John N.....Happy Home, N. C.
Fowler, Thos. J.....Mebaneville, N. C.
Franks, Wm. H.....Raleigh, N. C.
Greggs, C. W.....Wedowee, Ala.
Hatch, John W.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Hayes, H. B.....Raleigh, N. C.
Holland, R. H.....Carrsville, Va.
Holt, J. W.....Franklinton, N. C.
Hurley, M. L.....Red Bank, Va.
Hurst, G. M.....Milnor, Ala.
Jones, D. F.....Company Shops, N. C.
Kitchen, John T.....Vicksville, Va.
Klapp, Peter T..... Sanford, N. C.
Lawrence, J. S.....Browers' Mills, N. C.
Lawrence, W. W..Browers' Mills, N. C.
Long, Wm. S.....Graham, N. C.
Long, D. A.....Graham, N. C.
Manning, J. N.....Portsmouth, Va.
Neese, J. L.....Roanoke, Ala.
Nelson, A. S.....Carter's Mills, N. C.
Pinnix, J. W. .Anderson's Store, N. C.
Rawls, Robert.....Ivor, Va.
Ralston, C. J.....Nurneysville, Va.
Smith, Jubilee.....Richland, Ga.
Sorrell, M. J.....West Point, Ga.
Staley, W. W.....University of Va.
Tinnen, R. G.....Cedar Grove, N. C.
Tuck, R. C.....Norfolk, Va.
Walker, Wm. T.....Edom, Va.
Wellons, J. W.....Franklinton, N. C.
Whitley, J. T.....Suffolk, Va.

LICENTIATES.

Butler, H. H.....Suffolk, Va.
Elder, Thomas H.....Milltown, Ala.
Ellis, S. I.....Graham, N. C.
Hamilton, C. J.....Roanoke, Ala.
Humble, P. P.... ..Buffalo Ford, N. C.
Iseley, A F..... Company Shops, N. C.
Manning, W. J.....Milltown, Ala.
McLeod, D. B.....Troy, N. C.
Scott, Jno. A....Company Shops, N. C.
Way, S. H.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Williams, John C.....Edom, Va.
Winston, M. L..... .Mt. Energy, N. C.
Wheeler, J..... Louisia, Ala.

The Conferences in 1878.

The Annual Conferences will meet in 1878 at the following times and places:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29—The Virginia Valley Conference, at Bethlehem, Rockingham county, Va. Rev. W. T. Walker will preach the Annual Sermon.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10—The Deep River Conference, at Union Grove, Randolph county, N. C. Rev. W. G. Brady will preach the Annual Sermon.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30—The Eastern Virginia Conference, at Barrett's, Southampton county, Va. Rev. J. T. Kitchen will preach the Annual Sermon.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15—The North Carolina and Virginia Conference, at Damascus, Orange county, N. C. Rev. Alfred Apple will preach the Annual Sermon.

We have no information as to the time and place of the next Annual Session of the Georgia and Alabama Conference.

We are not able to state with accuracy the time and place of the next session of any of the Colored Christian Conferences.

The General Convention will meet next Spring, in quadrennial session; but the particulars of time and place have not yet been settled.

Typographical Errors.

Page 17 of this Annual, 9th line from top of page, for "successfully" read "successful"; and in the next line below, for "inculpable" read "culpable."

The Christian Sun

[Established February 17, 1844.]

The organ of the Christian Church, an exponent of its principles, and an advocate of all its interests.

Advocates Evangelical Christianity, Christian Union, Sabbath School Work, Temperance, and all good enterprises.

ITS MOTTO:

"In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity."

REV. J. T. WHITLEY, Editor.

REV. C. A. APPLE, Associate Editor.

MAJ. D. B. DUNBAR, Secular Editor.

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HIGH GRADE,

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REV. C. A. APPLE, President.

Prof. Jno. H. Wright, A. M., and Miss Letitia P. Davis,

Assistants in the Literary Department.

Prof. William S. Williams,

In charge of the Music Department.

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REV. C. A. APPLE, President,

Suffolk, Va.

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GRAHAM, N. C.,

Rev. D. A. LONG, A. M., Principal,

ASSISTED BY

Rev. W. S. LONG, A. M.,

Rev. W. W. STALEY, A. M.

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For further particulars, apply to

REV. D. A. LONG, PRINCIPAL,

GRAHAM, N. C.

ANNUAL

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FOR

1878.

EDITED BY
REV. J. T. WHITLEY.

VOLUME VIII.

SUFFOLK, VA:
PRINTED AT THE CHRISTIAN SUN BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.
1878.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

For the information of such readers of this publication as may not be familiar with the history, principles and aims of the Christian Church, this introductory note is inserted.

The religious body represented in this ANNUAL originated as follows: At the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Baltimore, November 1st, 1792, Rev. James O'Kelly, a prominent, influential and highly-useful member, withdrew from that body, because of an irreconcilable difference of opinion between himself and the majority, respecting the autocratic power of the Bishops. He was accompanied in his withdrawal by a score or more of preachers, and the new movement was soon joined by about a thousand laymen. Mr. O'Kelly and his coadjutors at first adopted the name "Republican Methodists," but in 1794 discarded that title, and declared that thenceforth "Christian" alone should be accepted as their name. Although occasional General Meetings were held, in an informal manner, for consultation, from the very first, yet no regular Conference was organized until 1818, when the Eastern Virginia Conference was formed at Holy Neck Church, Nansemond county, Virginia. In 1825 the North Carolina and Virginia Conference was organized. On the 16th of October, 1825, James O'Kelly died in Chatham county, North Carolina, aged 92 years. On the 17th of February, 1844, Rev. Daniel W. Kerr issued, at Hillsboro, N. C., the first number of the "*Christian Sun*," a paper which has been recognized ever since as the organ of the Church. In April, 1847, the "Southern Christian Association" was organized of representatives of the Conferences; and this body was superseded by the "Southern Christian Convention" in 1856. The civil war of 1861--'65 produced a most disastrous effect upon the Church, paralyzing for the time nearly all its activities. In 1864 the Deep River Conference was formed in central North Carolina; and at some time previous to the war the Georgia and Alabama Conference was organized. In May, 1866, as the Churches were just emerging from the wreck of the war, the "Southern Christian Convention," which had been prevented from holding its regular session in 1862, met at Mt. Auburn, Warren county, North Carolina, and laid plans for future work. At this meeting a Declaration of Principles, a Form of Government, and a Directory for Worship were adopted, and the name of the body was changed to "The Gene-

ral Convention of the Christian Church." In 1870 a hymn-book was published for the use of the Church. On the 16th of February, 1877, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., the most prominent and widely-known minister in the Church, died at his home in Suffolk, Virginia. He had long been President of the General Convention, Editor of the "*Christian Sun*," and in many respects the recognized leader of the Church. The Christian Church now has one General Convention, five Annual Conferences, sixty-seven ministers, and about ten thousand private members.

Among the cardinal principles of the Church are these: Christ is the only Head of the Church; the name "Christian" is the proper appellation of Christ's followers; the Bible is a sufficient rule of faith and practice; Christian Character is the only proper test of Church fellowship; the right of Private Judgment in matters of religion, is inalienable, and should be freely yielded to all.

The only questions addressed to a person who applies for membership in a Christian Church, are these: "Have you sincerely and heartily repented of all your sins?" "Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world?" "Is it your purpose, through grace, to live a godly life?" Each member is permitted to decide for himself with reference to baptism and other matters of doctrine not essential to the very structure of Christianity.

The Christian Church aims, in common with other religious bodies, to spread the Gospel, and to secure, to the fullest possible extent, the conversion of the world to Christ. Its great *distinctive* mission, however, is to do everything in its power to expel sectarianism from among the people of God, to promote the liberty of the human conscience in matters of religion, to cause minor theological and ecclesiastical doctrines to be remanded to the sphere of individual judgment, and to effect the final union of all true Christians, upon the basis of a common belief in the essential doctrines of Christianity.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

General Convention

OF THE

Christian Church,

HELD AT

Lebanon, Caswell County, N. C., July 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 1878.

LEBANON, CASWELL COUNTY, N. C.,
Friday, July 26, 1878.

FIRST DAY.

THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH met in quadrennial session at this place to-day at 11 o'clock, A. M., with the following officers present:

Rev. Solomon Apple, President *Ex-Officio*,

Rev. C. A. Apple, Secretary,

Alfred Moring, Esq., Treasurer.

After a few most touching and appropriate remarks by the President, that officer proceeded to call the body to order, after which he conducted the usual initiatory religious services, which consisted of reading from the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer.

The Convention was then duly constituted, by calling the roll of Conferences, when the following persons presented proper certificates of election, and were admitted to seats as members:

North Carolina and Virginia Conference.—MINISTERS: Solomon Apple, Wm. S. Long, Alfred Apple, J. W. Wellons, W. G. Clements.

LAYMEN: John T. Ball, John W. Boyd, Dr. George S. Watson, George W. Pinnix, Archer A. Farmer.

Eastern Virginia Conference.—MINISTERS: J. N. Manning, M. B. Barrett, E. W. Beale, J. T. Whitley.

LAYMEN: Alex. Savage, Thomas J. Clements.

Deep River Valley Conference.—Not represented.

Valley Virginia Conference.—MINISTER: Wm. T. Walker.

Georgia and Alabama Conference.—Not represented.

The Secretary announced that a legal quorum was present.

The President, Rev. Solomon Apple, then rose and stated that, as a member of the Church at Lebanon, he desired the indulgence of speaking from the chair, in order to express to the members of the Convention, the warm welcome which the people of the community desired to extend to those composing the body and to all visiting brethren. He assured the brethren that they shonld be received to the hearts and homes of that community so long as it should be their pleasure to remain in the neighborhood.

Rev. J. N. Manning of the Eastern Virginia Conference, responded on behalf of the Convention. His remarks were most happily conceived, and were listened to with delight by all who heard them.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Virginia Conference, stated that, as two of the lay representatives from his Conference were unavoidably absent, he desired, after consultation with the other members of the Committee, that Rev. C. A. Apple, an *ex-officio* member of the Convention, with the right to deliberate, but not to vote, and Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, a visitor to the Convention, be both admitted to seats as voting members of this body, during its present session, these brethren being members of the Eastern Virginia Conference, and there being no laymen present from that Conference from whom selections could be made to supply the places of absentees.

Rev. W. S. Long moved that these brethren be received, as requested by Bro. Whitley, upon presentation of the certificate of the Executive Committee of their Conference to the effect that they had been chosen to supply the place of absent laymen. After a discussion of some length as to the legal formality of such a measure, the motion of Bro. Long was agreed to.

Rev. C. A. Apple and Rev. J. Pressley Barrett then presented the required certificates, and were admitted as voting members of the Convention.

The Chair then announced that, as the Convention was duly organized, the regular introductory address would now be delivered by Rev. J. T. Whitley, who had been appointed to perform that duty.

Rev. A. Apple said that, as the hour was late, he would move to adjourn now, that the congregation might get refreshments before hearing the address. The motion, after slight amendment, was agreed to, and the Convention took a recess, to reassemble at the call of the President.

Afternoon Session.

The Convention met at 2 o'clock, P. M., and, after singing a hymn, was called to order by the President.

Rev. J. T. Whitley then proceeded to deliver the introductory address.

After some eloquent preliminary remarks upon the history of the past few years, and touchingly referring to the loss which the Church has lately sustained in the death of several of its most prominent ministers, the speaker proceeded in a very able, interesting, and instructive manner to review the history of our organization, and to point out what lessons we are to learn from it, as to our future action and prospects of success in accomplishing our ultimate aims. The address was listened to with profound attention throughout, and was much appreciated by all who heard it.

At the conclusion of the address, the Convention resumed its regular routine of business.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, Rev. M. L. Hurley of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, being present, was invited to a seat as an honorary member of the Convention.

The Convention then proceeded to the election of officers to serve for the next four years, with the following result :

Rev. J. T. Whitley, President.

Rev. Wm. S. Long, Vice-President.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Assistant Secretary.

No election was had for Secretary and Treasurer, these offices being held for life, or during the pleasure of the Convention, and there being no vacancy at present.

On motion of Col. Alex. Savage, the election of the new officers was made unanimous.

These officers having been duly installed, the Convention proceeded with its business.

On motion, the Rules of Order which governed the last session of the Convention were read by the Secretary.

On motion, the Convention decided to take up these rules by sections, for the purpose of adopting them, if found suitable, for the government of this body for the next four years.

The Convention proceeded with the consideration of the rules of order. Section 8 was so amended as to allow the Presi-

dent to vote on a call of the yeas and nays. Section 9 was amended as to its grammatical construction, by striking out the pronoun "*he*" in the last clause, and inserting "*of him*" after the word "*required.*" Section 21 was so amended as to forbid any speaker's being interrupted, while addressing the Convention, except by a member who desires to ask a question, and not then, unless by permission of the member entitled to the floor. The Rules of Order, as thus amended, were adopted for the government of this body.

On motion, the Chair was requested to appoint a special Committee on Religious Exercises, with full powers to make such arrangements for Religious Services during the continuance of the meeting as they should think proper. The Chair appointed Rev. Solomon Apple, Rev. C. A. Apple and Bro. A. A. Farmer to constitute said Committee.

Rev. W. S. Long offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That this Convention meet, each day during its present sitting, at 9 o'clock, A. M., spend half an hour in religious exercises, take a recess at 11½ o'clock, A. M., for public religious service and refreshment, meet again at 2 o'clock, P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, it was ordered by the Convention that the Chair appoint suitable persons to fill vacancies in the regular standing committees, occasioned by the the absence of members of said committees.

The Chair consequently made the appointments, as follows:

On Schools and Colleges.—G. S. Watson, T. J. Clements.

Home Missions.—J. Pressley Barrett, W. G. Clements, W. T. Walker.

Publications.—A. Savage, J. W. Boyd.

Finance.—A. Savage, J. T. Ball, E. W. Beale, G. W. Pinnix.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced that Rev. J. Pressley Barrett would preach to-morrow at 11½ o'clock, A. M.

The Convention then adjourned, with prayer by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

SECOND DAY.

Saturday, July 27, 1878.

The Convention met at 9 o'clock, A. M., and was called to order by the President, who conducted religious exercises, assisted by Rev. Bros. Beale and Clements.

The roll was then called, and all the members were found to be present except Rev. J. N. Manning.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett rose to a question of privilege. He stated that, on consideration, he was disposed to concur in the opinion of some others of the brethren, that his admission on yesterday as a voting member of the Convention in place of an absent layman, was not in accordance with strict forms of law, and that doubting his right to a seat, under these circumstances, he desired to withdraw from the Convention.

Rev. W. S. Long moved that the brother's request be complied with.

Rev. C. A. Apple moved to lay Bro. Long's motion upon the table. Not agreed to.

The question recurring upon the motion of Bro. Long, it was agreed to.

Rev. J. N. Manning arrived and took his seat. Being called upon, he rendered excuses for tardiness, and was excused.

The Chair then announced that as Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, had withdrawn from the Convention, his office as Assistant Secretary, was, by that act, rendered vacant, and that he should so decide, unless otherwise ordered by the Convention.

Rev. C. A. Apple appealed from the decision of the Chair, and asked permission to explain his reason for dissenting from the opinions of the Chair. This permission being refused, the decission of the Chair was sustained.

The Convention then proceeded to elect an Assistant Secretary, and Rev. E. W. Beale was elected to fill that office.

Rev. C. A. Apple rose to a question of privilege. He stated that the Chair had decided that, so soon as Rev. J. Pressley Barrett ceased to be a member of the Convention, he ceased to be Assistant Secretary thereof, and that the Convention had sustained this decision. He stated that he himself had been elected Secretary of this body in 1866, when not a member thereof, and that, while he had never doubted that his election was a perfectly legal one, this recent decision of the Convention would, *a fortiri*, vitiate the title by which he held his office. He therefore tendered his resignation as Secretary of this Convention.

On motion of Rev. J. N. Mahning, the Convention declined to accept the resignation as tendered by Bro. Apple.

On motion, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett was invited to a seat as an honorary member.

Rev. C. A. Apple, Chairman of the Committee on Publications, asked leave to present the report of his committee, which was granted.

REPORT.

We your Committee on Publications beg leave to report:

1. That, during the last four years, owing to the fact that the General Convention has made no regular arrangement for publications, our duties have been more nominal than real. The publication fund possessed by the Convention has not been sufficient for the inauguration of any regular system of operations, and we have not thought it best to proceed without feeling sure of a reasonably sound financial basis for our work.

2. That our Church has been supplied with all it could reasonably expect in the way of a denominational newspaper by the "CHRISTIAN SUN," which, though a private enterprise, so far as its proprietorship is concerned, has been a faithful, fearless, and able exponent of the peculiar principles of our organization. In the death of its former editor and proprietor, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., the Church sustained a loss that must long be deeply felt by our people. The paper is now owned and conducted by Rev. J. T. Whitley and Maj. D. B. Dunbar, and is now, as ever, truly a denominational organ, clearly expounding, and faithfully advocating our principles as a Church.

We feel it our duty to say however that the brethren who own and publish the "SUN" are doing so under very great difficulties and at a sacrifice such as our people ought not to be willing to see imposed upon them. It is true that the paper and office fixtures are their own property, but as they have undertaken this work solely with a view to advance our cause, we feel that they ought to be sustained and made safe against loss, such as they are not able to bear without disastrous financial consequences to themselves. If the Convention can devise any means to purchase the office and fixtures, and publish the paper under the auspices of the Church, these brethren will gladly sell out the property to the denomination. It may be well for the Convention, at its present session to inquire into the expediency of such a measure.

3. It will be necessary, at this session of your body, to devise some plan for publishing a HYMN BOOK for the use of our congregations. The whole edition of the Hymn Book published by the late Dr. Wellons is now entirely exhausted, and, as the work was not stereotyped, no more copies can be obtained. We think a new book may be compiled, better suited to our present needs, which may be sold at about half the price of the old work. We recommend immediate action in this matter.

4. We think it best, if the Convention should decide to issue a new hymn book, that the Declaration of Principles, Form of Government, and Directory for Worship, should be thoroughly revised, (being now, as we think, in many respects very imperfect,) and reprinted in the same volume with the new collection of hymns. We feel assured that the Church cannot long remain satisfied with the Declaration of Principles, etc., in its present form, and we think no time would be more favorable for revision and republication than when a new hymn book is to be issued.

5. It has long been the impression of many of our leading men that our cause might be promoted by the publication and circulation of several tracts or pamphlets setting forth the history and distinctive principles of the Christian Church. Several members of this Committee have been considering this subject of late with a view to action, but have thought it best to wait for further instruction from your body. We commend the subject to your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully summitted,

C. A. APPLE,
JOHN W. BOYD,
SOL. APPLE,
J. T. WHITLEY,
ALEX. SAVAGE.
} Committee.

Rev. J. N. Manning moved that the report be adopted. After some little discussion, the report was laid upon the table, and made the special order for the afternoon session.

The Chair appointed Rev. E. W. Beale to fill the place of Rev. J. Pressley Barrett on the Committee on Home Missions.

Rev. Solomon Apple moved that a Committee be appointed to take into consideration and recommend a suitable time and place for the next meeting of the Convention. Agreed to.

The Convention then took a recess until 2 o'clock, P. M.

In the interim, a very instructive and excellent sermon was delivered by Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, founded on John 15 : 25 : "They hated me without a cause."

Afternoon Session.

The Convention met at 2 o'clock.

The special order for the afternoon, being the report of the Committee on Publications, was taken up.

Rev. J. N. Manning moved to consider by sections. Agreed to.

The first section, after explanations by the Chairman of the Committee, was adopted.

The second section, relating to the Christian Sun, was then taken up. Remarks relative to the necessity for sustaining the paper, and the difficulties which are encountered in doing so, were made by Rev. C. A. Apple, and Rev. J. T. Whitley, the Vice-President being in the Chair. On motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, this section was referred to a special Committee of three, with instructions to consider and report what measures, if any, this Convention can take to assure the continued publication of our denominational newspaper.

The Chair appointed on this Committee, Rev. Bros. Manning, Long, and C. A. Apple.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach to-morrow, Sunday, at 11 A. M., and Rev. M. B. Barrett to preach the same day at 2 P. M.

The third section of the report was then taken up. After discussion by Bros. C. A. Apple, Manning, Whitley, Wellons, and Ball, it was referred to the Committee on Publications.

Rev. S. Apple then moved to adjourn. The motion was lost.

The fourth section, relating to a revision of the Declaration of Principles, Form of Government, and Directory for Worship, was then taken up. It was advocated by Rev. C. A. Apple and Bro. J. T. Ball, and opposed by Rev. J. N. Manning. Bro. Manning, before closing his remarks, yielded the floor in order to allow an opportunity for a motion to adjourn, with the understanding that he should be entitled to the floor,

when the consideration of this subject should be resumed.

The Convention then adjourned with religious services conducted by Rev. W. S. Long.

[On Sunday, a very large congregation attended to hear excellent discourses from Rev. Bros. Whitley and M. B. Barrett. The former preached in the morning from 1 Corinthians 13 : 1, 2, 3 : "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal," etc.

Bro. Barrett preached in the afternoon from 1 Peter 1 : 24, 25 : "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth forever."]

THIRD DAY.

MONDAY, July 29, 1878.

The Convention met at 9 o'clock, A. M., and was called to order by the President, who conducted religious services, assisted by Bros. Ball, Moring, and A. Apple.

The roll was called, and all the members were found to be present.

The proceedings of Saturday were read, amended, and approved.

The Chair announced as the committee to recommend suitable time and place for next meeting, Rev. S. Apple, Rev. J. W. Wellons, and Bro. T. J. Clements.

The fourth section of the report of the Committee on Publications, which was pending on Saturday at the hour of adjournment, was then taken up. Rev. J. N. Manning, being entitled to the floor, resumed the discussion in opposition to this section. The section was advocated by Bros. Long, Walker, Wellons, S. Apple, Ball, and Whitley—the Vice-President being in the chair during Bro. Whitley's remarks.

The hour for recess having arrived, on motion the session of the Convention was extended for ten minutes, to allow Bro. Manning to make a statement. After which the fourth section was adopted.

Rev. J. N. Manning moved that the Chair appoint a committee of five to make the revision contemplated in this section.

Col. Savage moved to amend Bro. Manning's motion by providing that this committee shall be elected by ballot.

Pending the consideration of this question, the Convention took the usual mid-day recess. In the interim an excellent sermon was delivered by Rev. W. T. Walker, from Proverbs 3 : 17 : "Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

Afternoon Session.

The Convention met at the usual hour.

The pending question was taken up, and Bro. Manning's motion, as amended by Bro. Savage, was agreed to, but was afterwards reconsidered. Rev. M. B. Barrett moved still further to amend by having the Committee of Revision to consist of seven members ; three from the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, three from the Eastern Virginia Conference, and one from the Valley Virginia Conference.

Bro. Barrett's amendment was agreed to, and the original motion, as thus amended, was adopted.

The Chair decided that no person could be elected a member of this committee except a member of this Convention. Rev. S. Apple appealed from the desision of the Chair. The Convention sustained the ruling of the Chair.

The Convention proceeded to ballot for members of this committee, with the following result:

North Carolina and Virginia Conference.—Rev. Bros. S. Apple, W. S. Long, and J. W. Wellons.

Eastern Virginia Conference.—Rev. Bros. J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley, and C. A. Apple.

Valley Virginia Conference.—Rev. W. T. Walker.

The fifth section of the report on Publications was then taken up and adopted, after which the report was adopted as a whole.

Rev. W. S. Long moved that the Committee on Publications be instructed to take measures for the publication of a new Hymn Book for use in our congregations.

Agreed to.

Bro. A. Moring, Treasurer of this Convention, presented his report, which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Rev. J. N. Manning, from the Committee on Schools and Colleges, made a report, which was received and read.

Rev. C. A. Apple, a member of the same committee, not concurring in the report of the majority, made by Bro. Manning, made a minority report, which was also read. On motion of Bro. A. Savage, both reports were referred back to the committee.

Rev. J. N. Manning, chairman of the special committee on the *Christian Sun*, made the following report:

REPORT.

Your Committee appointed to inquire into the best means in our reach for the relief and support of the *Chrsitian Sun* would report:—That they find this a very difficult question under present circumstances, and are at a loss as to what is best to recommend. We therefore only recommend that the Convention suggest to the owners of the paper to consider the propriety of reducing the size of the sheet, so as to be able to issue it to subscribers at about a dollar and a half per annum for each copy, and that an active agent be employed in each church thoughout our connection, to increase the subscription list, if possible, to as many as two thousand subscribers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING,
C. A. APPLE,
W. S. LONG.

After considerable discussion, participated in by Bros. W. G. Clements, Walker, Long, Moring, C. A. Apple, Whitley, Wellons, Beale, J. P. Barrett, Savage, Ball and S. Apple, and the offering of several amendments, a motion to adopt the report was agreed to.

Rev. S. Apple then moved to adjourn.

Not agreed to.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, it was determined that when this Convention shall adjourn, at the close of its present session, it will adjourn to meet in extraordinary session at Suffolk, Va., on Friday before the first Sunday in April, 1879.

Bro. A. Savage moved to suspend the rules, in order to admit of the introduction and reading of a paper memorializing the Convention in behalf of Home Missions.

Agreed to.

The memorial having been duly read, was referred to the Committee on Home Missions.

This memorial emanated from the Committee on Home Missions of the Eastern Virginia Conference.

On motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, the Committee of Revision was instructed to report to this Convention at its extraordinary session in April next.

On motion of the same brother, the Committee on Publications received the same instructions.

The Convention then adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Wellons.

[During the afternoon Rev. W. G. Clements preached in the grove. The Secretary did not learn the text.]

FOURTH DAY.

TUESDAY, July 30, 1878.

The Convention met at 9 o'clock A. M. Religious services were participated in by Rev. Bros. Beale, C. A. Apple, and the President. The roll was called, and all the members answered to their names.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The Chair announced the following standing committees for the ensuing four years:

PUBLICATIONS.—C. A. Apple, W. G. Clements, J. N. Manning, S. Apple.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.—W. S. Long, W. T. Walker, E. W. Beale, J. N. Manning, P. H. Lee.

HOME MISSIONS.—J. N. Manning, A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, W. T. Walker. A. Moring.

FINANCE.—J. W. Wellons, A. Savage, Emanuel Sipe, H. T. West, John T. Ball.

On motion, the name of the President was added to the Committee on Publications.

The Committee on Finance made their report with the report of the Treasurer appended, which after discussion by Bros. Moring, Savage, and Manning, was adopted as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Finance would report:

That, owing to pressing demand, for money for other enterprises in the several Conferences, the recommendation of your previous committee has not received any attention, and consequently no collection has been made since your last session; and for want of instruction to the Treasurer of your body the funds previously secured have not been increased by interest, as shown by the report of the Treasurer referred to us, and herewith attached.

We would recommend that funds in hand be placed at interest and properly or legally secured, and that the several Conferences be requested to raise, in a manner they deem advisable, at least ten cents a year from every member of the several churches composing the same, for a Convention fund.

Respectfully submitted,

A. MORING,
ALEX. SAVAGE,
E. W. BEALE,
JOHN T. BALL,
G. W. PINNIX.

Amount due Convention, as per report of May 1, 1874,		$554.44.
Amount due Conventton in the hands of Rev. W. B. Wellons, deceased,	$361.54.	
Amount due by Treasurer,	192.90.	
Whole amount due,		$554.44.

A small portion of the money in the hands of Rev. W. B. Wellons was collected by him. The remainder was paid over by me, by order of the authorities of the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

A. MORING, Treasurer.

On motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, the new Committee on Finance was instructed to carry out the recommendations contained in the report of the late committee.

Rev. W. S. Long offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That we appoint an Executive Committee of this Convention, to consist of the President and Secretary of this body and one other person, the President to be chairman of the committee, whose duty it shall be to examine all requisitions of the various standing committees, and determine the use of all moneys in the Treasury, and decide upon their appropriation by the respective committees, and that this Executive Committee shall have charge of all such business as would belong to the Convention itself, if in session, but which may not be of sufficient importance to demand an extraordinary session, and that this committee shall report its action in writing at each session of the Convention.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to elect the remaining person, who with the President and Secretary, is to constitute this committee ; whereupon Bro. Alex. Savage was chosen to fill this position.

The Committee on Schools and Colleges again reported through the chairman, Rev. J. N. Manning.

Rev. C. A. Apple stated that he was still unable to concur in the report as offered by Bro. Manning, and that he therefore again begged leave to offer a minority report.

Rev. J. N. Manning advocated the majority report. Rev. C. A. Apple gave his reasons for non-concurrence in the report of the majority. Rev. W. S. Long moved to amend the majority report by striking out all after the word report, and inserting thereafter all the minority report except the first paragraph. Rev. W. T. Walker moved further to amend by striking out the last sentence but one in the minority report.

Accepted by Bro Long.

A very animated discussion arose, participated in by Bros. Manning, Long, and Whitley—the Vice-President being in the Chair during Bro. Whitley's remarks.

The motion of Bro. Long was then agreed to, and the report, as adopted, is as follows :

REPORT.

Your Committee on Schools and Colleges would report:

That during the past four years it has not been found expedient to attempt the establishment of any schools or colleges, under the peculiar circumstances by which we were surrounded. There has, therefore, been no active work for your Committee to do.

In several of the Conferences, High Schools have been established, which are under the patronage of our people. We are glad to say that these schools, especially the Suffolk Collegiate Institute and the Graham High School, have heretofore had an encouraging support, though our people have not as yet come up to their duty in sustaining them.

We do not think it expedient to attempt the establishment of any College among our people for some time to come. Our numbers are too small and our finances too weak to set on foot a college which might compare favorably with the better institutions of the country, which are open to our youth. We do not think it best for any special enterprise of this character to be undertaken at present.

J. N. MANNING,
T. J. CLEMENTS,
G. S. WATSON,
W. S. LONG,
C. A. APPLE. } Committee.

[NOTE.—This report, in its present form was not signed by the committee. Their names are given at the close of the report to show who constituted the committee.—SEC.]

The hour for recess having arrived, the Convention decided to continue in session ten minutes longer.

Bros. G. W. Pinnix, John W. Boyd, and A. A. Farmer asked and obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the session.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the members of Lebanon Church and the citizens of the community for their generous hospitality, and also to the various railroads and steamboat lines, for allowing members of this body to pass at reduced fare on their way to and from the place of meeting. The Convention then took a recess until 2 o'clock.

In the interim, an admirable sermon was delivered by Rev. J. N. Manning, from John 13 : 17 : "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Leave of absence was granted to Rev. M. B. Barrett during the remainder of the session.

Rev. J. W. Wellons from the Committee on Home Missions, presented the report of his committee.

On motion, the report was considered by sections or subjects. After considerable discussion by Bros. Wellons, Moring, Ball, Long, Manning, and Walker, and the offering of sundry amendments, which were rejected, all the sections were adopted except the last. It was moved to strike out this section, recommending the appointment of a Home Mission Secretary.

The motion was earnestly opposed by Rev. J. P. Barrett, and advocated by Bro. Savage.

The motion to strike out prevailed, and the report, as thus amended, was adopted.

REPORT.

Your Committee on Home Missions submit the following:

During the last four years but little has been accomplished, where much might have been done under systematic efforts. There is much to claim our attention as a Convention. The Eastern Virginia Conference and the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, we think, are advancing in the missionary work. They have Missionary Societies at work, and their prospects for success are good. We hope other Conferences will endeavor to introduce system into their missionary operations, and so come to the help of this cause.

We think that special attention should be given to the Georgia and Alabama Conference and the Tennessee Conference, as they are remote and much in need of ministerial aid.

We have taken the Memorial from the Eastern Virginia Conference under careful consideration. After a full and free discussion of our situation as a denomination, we are persuaded that our cause demands action, and immediate action, on our part.

We recommend that the Conferences composing this Convention district their churches, so that the smaller churches may have regular preaching as well as the larger and stronger. All contracts made by the minister and districts should be ratified by the Conference to which they belong. The minister should submit an annual report of the amount of labor performed in the district, and should render to the Conference an excuse for any failure to discharge his duty to his district.

The Home Mission Committee of each Conference should assist the ministers and districts in arranging their work, provided the matter has not been previously arranged by the ministers and churches for themselves.

We recommend the appointment of an evangelist by the Convention, to travel throughout the bounds of the Convention, to aid pastors and missionaries in conducting their protracted meetings and to conduct meetings elsewhere, as circumstances favor, believing that much might be accomplished by such an appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. WELLONS,
E. W. BEALE,
W. G. CLEMENTS,
W. T. WALKER,
A. APPLE,
} Committee.

Rev. Solomon Apple, from the special committee appointed to consider and recommend a suitable time and place for the next regular meeting of the Convention, reported verbally that the committee considered it best to postpone this matter until the meeting of the extraordinary session in April next. The report was adopted.

Bro. Alex. Savage introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to Rev. J. T. Whitley for the instructive address delivered by him at the opening of this session, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication with the minutes of the Convention.

This resolution was, at the request of Rev. J. N. Manning, considered in its two parts. The first part, tendering the thanks of the Convention, was at once unanimously adopted.

It was argued in relation to the second part that, while the address was a most admirable one, there were in it certain statements, which, though important for members of the Convention to consider, it might not be expedient to publish to the world.

During the discussion, Rev. J. N. Manning received leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

Without action upon the second part of the resolution, the Convention adjourned. Prayer by Rev. Wm. T. Walker.

FIFTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, July 31, 1878.

The Convention met at 9 o'clock A. M., and was opened with the usual religious exercises, participated in by Rev. Bros. A. Apple and S. Apple.

The roll was called, and all found present except those who had obtained leave of absence.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Bro. Ball offered several resolutions, asking the Committee of Revision to inquire into the expediency of making certain changes in the Declaration of Principles and Form of Government, which were referred, without reading, to the proper committee.

The second part of the resolution referring to the introductory address, being the general order, was taken up.

Rev. S. Apple moved to refer the question of publishing the address to the Committee on Publications.

Not agreed to.

The original resolution, as offered by Col. Savage, was then passed.

On motion, the proceedings of this Convention were ordered to be published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL, and the Treasurer was instructed to honor a draft amounting to twenty-five dollars to pay for the same.

Rev. Solomon Apple offered the following preamble and resolutions relating to the death of Rev. Dr. Wellons, and Rev. A. Iseley:

Whereas, Since the last quadrennial session of the General Convention, it has pleased Our All-Wise Heavenly Father to remove from earthly labors our beloved brother, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., for many years President of this Convention, and likewise Rev. Alfred Iseley, a venerable minister of the Christian Church, who was for a long time a member of this body, and

Whereas, The Convention deems it fit and becoming that some expression of its grief in the loss of these two eminently useful men, should be given, therefore,

1. *Resolved,* That while we bow in submission to the ways of Divine Providence, yet we feel that the Church has suffered a great bereavement in the death of these active, earnest, and faithful ministers of the gospel.

2. *Resolved,* That we will endeavor to treasure up in faithful hearts the noble example of these brethren, whose lives and talents were so faithfully laid upon the altar of a common cause, and whose spirits, we doubt not, have gone up as the savor of sweet incense before our Heavenly Father.

3. *Resolved,* That we bless the Almighty Giver of all good things for the gift of these excellent men as colaborers in the great work in which we are enlisted, and that, while we drop our tears of sorrow over their removal from our midst, yet we rejoice in the belief that all things work together for good to those that love God, and that we feel comfort in the reflection that these brethren have left the scene of earthly trial for the blessed rest and unfading glory of heaven.

Touching and eloquent eulogies upon these deceased brethren were pronounced by Bros. S. Apple, Wellons, A. Apple, Whitley, Long, Walker, Moring, J. P. Barrett, and Beale.

The Convention then adjourned to meet, in extraordinary session, at Suffolk, Va., on Friday before the first Sunday in April, 1879.

Closing religious services were conducted by the President.

After the adjournment of the Convention, Rev. C. A. Apple, by request, preached a valedictory sermon, founded upon Philippians 3: 20, 21: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

A deep and solemn tenderness seemed to fill every heart, and it was with sad feelings, mingled with hopefulness of gathering together at last in the "general assembly and church of the firstborn, whose names are written in Heaven," that the members of the General Convention gave each other the parting hand, and separated for their homes.

J. T. WHITLEY, President.
W. S. LONG, Vice-President.

C. A. Apple, *Secretary.*
E. W. Beale, *Assistant Secretary.*

MINUTES

OF THE

NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Virginia Valley Christian Conference.

BETHLEHEM, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA.,
Thursday, August 29, 1878.

THE VIRGINIA VALLEY CONFERENCE met here to-day in its ninth annual session.

Bro. Jesse Burkholder, of Antioch Church, the President of the last annual session, called the body to order, and requested Rev. E. W. Beale, of the Eastern Virginia Conference, to conduct the opening devotional exercises. This Brother Beale did in a most appropriate and impressive manner.

The Standing Secretary, Rev. C. J. Ralston, then called the roll of ministers and churches, and the following enrollment was made of members present:

ELDERS: W. T. Walker, C. J. Ralston.

LICENTIATE: John C. Williams.

LAY-DELEGATES: *From Antioch*—D. F. Lineaweaver, W. P. Byrd. *From Linville*—Col. Emanuel Sipe, Elias Emswiler. *From Bethlehem*—Philip Holsinger. *From Locust Grove*—Jas. Jones. Dayton, Valley and Plains churches were not represented.

A quorum being present, Conference went into the election of officers for the present session.

Bro. Jesse Burkholder was unanimously chosen President, and Bro. W. Perry Byrd Assistant Secretary.

On motion, Rev. J. T. Whitley, President of the General Convention of the Christian Church, Editor of the *Christian Sun*, and fraternal messenger from the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference, being present, was invited to a seat in the body as an honorary member. Also, Rev. E. W. Beale, of the

Eastern Virginia Conference, was invited to a seat in the Conference as an honorary member. These brethren responded to the invitation in short addresses.

The time having arrived for the delivery of the annual introductory address, Rev. W. T. Walker, who had been previously appointed to discharge that duty, delivered the address, announcing as his subject, "CHRISTIAN" : THE NAME WE WEAR.

Conference resumed its business after the address was over.

On motion, Conference decided to meet daily at 9 A. M., and take a recess at 12 M., for preaching and dinner ; meet again at 2 P. M , and adjourn at will.

A recess was taken for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was called to order by the Chair.

On motion, Rev. W. T. Walker and Bros. P. Holsinger and J. H. Huntsberry were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

On motion, the following brethren were chosen a special Committee on Periodicals: Rev. W. T. Walker, Rev. C. J. Ralston, Col. E. Sipe.

On motion, the following were appointed a special committee to examine the records of the local churches: W. P. Byrd, C. J. Ralston.

The various brethren who were appointed at the annual session of 1877, as Fraternal Messengers to sister Conferences, were called upon, and rendered their reports.

Conference then went into the election of Fraternal Messengers, with the following result: To the Eastern Virginia Conference—Rev. W. T. Walker, Rev. C. J. Ralston, Col. E. Sipe. To the North Carolina Conference—Rev. C. J. Ralston, Rev. W. T. Walker, Bros. John C. Williams and W. P. Byrd. To the Central Virginia Conference—Rev. W. T. Walker and Col. E. Sipe.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, August 30, 1878.

The Conference met this morning, with President Jesse Burkholder in the chair. The roll was called, and the minutes of yesterday's session were read.

On motion, reports of ministers were called for. Reports were handed in by Rev. Bros. C. J. Ralston, W. T. Walker, and J. C. Williams.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to procure and furnish to the ministers blank forms for their annual reports, and the ministers were required to use these blanks in making their reports hereafter.

The Committee on Temperance made the following

REPORT.

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of Temperance, beg leave to submit the following:

There is not a member of any of the churches composing this Conference, who manufactures or traffics in ardent spirits; and we are happy to say, that we believe that the intemperate use of ardent spirits in the bounds of this Conference, is considerably on the decline. It is certainly the duty of the church to exert itself for the suppression of this great vice; and we therefore urge upon our people more energetic efforts in this direction.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. WALKER, Chairman.

The report elicited remarks from the chairman of the committee, and from Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Col. E. Sipe, Rev. C. J. Ralston, and Bro. J. C. Williams; after which it was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. C. J. Ralston to preach to-day at 12 o'clock, and Rev. E. W. Beale to-night.

The Committee on Education offered the following partial

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education are happy in being able to report a constantly increasing interest in this important subject throughout our entire country, and especially among our own people. We regard this fact as one of the most important signs of the times, and as the harbinger of better days. Ignorance, the mother of superstition, is emphatically the great obstacle in the way of all true progress, and especially of the progress of the Christian religion. That the peculiar principles which we as a religious organization hold and teach may be successful, they must be presented to an enlightened public, and in that clear and forcible style which the educated alone can employ. We would, therefore, urge our people to greater exertions in this direction.

As we have no schools of our own within the bounds of this Conference, we most heartily commend to our people the Suffolk Collegiate Institute and the Graham High School, as worthy of their patronage.

W. T. WALKER, Chairman.

Earnest addresses were delivered by Rev. W. T. Walker, Rev. J. T. Whitley and Rev. E. W. Beale, after which the report was adopted.

Bro. J. C. Williams, from the committee on Sunday Schools, offered a report, which, on motion, was made the special order for 2 o'clock P. M.

Rev. C. J. Ralston moved that the proceedings of this Conference be published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL for 1878. Remarks were made by the mover, by Bro. D. F. Lineaweaver, and Rev. J. T. Whitley. Pending the consideration of the subject, a recess was taken. During the recess Rev. C. J. Ralston preached to the assembled congregation.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The business of Conference was resumed at 2 o'clock.

The matter of printing the minutes in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL was again taken up, and disscussed by Rev. C. J. Ralston, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. W. T. Walker and D. F. Lineaweaver, after which the motion was so amended as to constitute the following members a committee to raise funds for the purpose: Rev. C. J. Ralston, Jesse Burkholder, D. F. Lineaweaver, P. Holsinger, and E. Sipe. The motion to print the minutes was then adopted.

The report on Sabbath Schools came up as the special order of the hour. Remarks were made by Bro. J. C. Williams, chairman of the committee, Rev. C. J. Ralston, Jesse Burkholder, D. F. Lineaweaver, Rev. W. T. Walker, Rev. J. T. Whitley and others, after which the report was amended and adopted as follows:

REPORT.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools report the following:

We find that there is not as much attention given to the Sabbath School cause as there should be, and recommend a little more energy upon the part of ministers, deacons and church members. Some of our churches are without schools. Some have schools in a weak condition, which is due to absence of discipline.

We recommend the churches to make it the duty of their pastors to appoint the superintendents, and the duty of pastors and superintendents to appoint all the teachers and other officers of their respective schools.

J. C. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

On motion, Antioch Church, Rockingham county, Va., was chosen as the place for holding the next session of this body.

On motion, Rev. C. J. Ralston was appointed to deliver the annual sermon at the next Conference.

The body then adjourned until to-morrow.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, August 31, 1878.

The Conference convened this morning, and was called to order by the President, Bro. Jesse Burkholder.

At the request of the Chair, Rev. J. T. Whitley conducted the opening devotional exercises.

Rev. W. T. Walker, the delegate from this Conference to the late session of the General Convention of the Christian Church, reported that he had attended the Convention, but did not deem it necessary to make an elaborate statement, as the proceedings had already been printed in the *Christian Sun* and would hereafter be published in the ANNUAL.

On motion, 2 o'clock P. M., was fixed upon as the time for receiving reports from the churches.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced the following appointments for preaching: 11 A. M., to-day, Rev. J. T. Whitley; 8 P. M., Rev. E. W. Beale; 11 A. M., on Sunday, Rev. J. T. Whitley.

The President announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

Sunday Schools—J. C. Williams, D. F. Lineaweaver, James Jones.

Temperance—E. Sipe, P. Holsinger, E. Emswiler.

Home Missions—E. Sipe, D. F. Lineaweaver, P. Holsinger, James Jones.

Education—W. T. Walker, C. J. Ralston.

Executive Committee—W. T. Walker, C. J. Ralston, E. Sipe.

On motion, the time for the reception of the report on Periodicals was changed to 2½ o'clock P. M.

Bro. J. H. Huntsberry, a delegate from the church at Bethlehem, arrived and was enrolled as a member of Conference.

Rev. W. T. Walker, chairman of the Executive Committee, made a verbal report, stating that no business had claimed their attention during the year, and that consequently they had taken no action. The report was received.

The Standing Committee on Education made the following supplementary

REPORT.

We have but one individual under our care, Bro. J. C. Williams. Bro. Williams has preached regularly the past year for the church at Locust Grove. We learn from the delegate from that Church, that he has labored to good acceptance and to some profit. We have examined Bro. Williams, and are glad to be able to report that he has made in some things considerable progress. We recommend that he be continued as a licentiate.

We take this occasion to call the attention of our brethren to the fact, that we would be very glad indeed to receive others under our care, as members of the ministerial class.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. WALKER, }
C. J. RALSTON, } Committee.

The report was discussed by Rev. Bros. W. T. Walker, C. J. Ralston, E. W. Beale and J. T. Whitley, after which it was adopted.

The Conference then took a recess until 2 o'clock P. M. During the intermission, a sermon was preached by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference resumed its session.

The Committee on Church Records reported as follows :

REPORT.

Your Committee on Church Records beg leave to submit the following report:

We have examined the records of the churches at Antioch and Linville, and find them kept in accordance with our Form of Government. No records were submitted to us by the churches at Locust Grove, Dayton, Plains and Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. BYRD, }
C. J. RALSTON, } Committee.

The report was adopted.

The subjoined report was submitted by the committee on Periodicals :

REPORT.

There is at present but one periodical published in the interest of our particular organization, viz: the *Christian Sun*. This paper is owned and published by Rev. J. T. Whitley and Maj. D. B. Dunbar, of Suffolk, Va., and is an able and faithful exponent of the peculiar principles of our organization.

We would call the attention of this body to the fact that this paper is not receiving at the hands of our people in general, and of those within the bounds of this Conference in particular, that hearty support which its importance demands. We therefore commend the paper to our people; and, in order that its circulation may be extended, we recommend that this body appoint a local agent in each church to solicit subscriptions.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. WALKER, Chairman.

After addresses on the subject of Periodicals, by Rev. Bros. W. T. Walker, J. T. Whitley and E. W. Beale, the report was adopted.

The Editor of the *Sun* caused the congregation to be canvassed, and a dozen or more new subscribers were obtained on the spot.

The following local agents were then appointed to represent the *Sun* in their respective churches: Antioch, D. F. Lineaweaver; Linville, Emanuel Sipe; Bethlehem, J. H. Huntsberry; Locust Grove, James Jones.

Col. E. Sipe, from the Committee on Home Missions, submitted a report, which was discussed at length by various brethren, after which it was recommitted.

Conference then took a recess until after public service tonight.

Night Session.

After a deeply-impressive sermon preached by Rev. E. W. Beale, Conference was called to order by Rev. J. T. Whitley, in the absence of the President.

The Committee on Home Missions reported as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Home Missions beg to submit the following report:

Among the neglected portions of this Conference, where missions may be sustained, and, as we think, churches established, we mention Locust Grove, Plains, Dayton and Rushville; and we would mention as a means employed to that end, the fact that the churches at Antioch and Linville did one year ago compromise their own local interests to the extent of one half the pastoral work they would otherwise have been content with, in order that the preachers belonging to this Conference might find time and opportunity to reorganize and bring into a state of lively connection with the Conference the above-named churches, or so many of them as possible. But we are sorry to report that the effort was without success, so far as we are able to learn. Owing to our great want of preachers, we are unable to make any recommendation respecting these several points, except as to Locust Grove, in which case we recommend the action of Bro. Williams, a licentiate in this Conference, in reorganizing the church at Locust Grove. As to the Valley, one of the churches upon this roll, we recommend that it be dropped from the roll.

We feel it a duty to recommend to this body, the representative of the several organized churches, and to every individual thereof, the importance of a redoubling of their energies, in efforts to improve their own condition by the means at their command, and extending their influence to other neglected portions of the Conference, in order that the Valley Conference may not only be sustained, but enlarged and strengthened. In the absence of an adequate number of efficient preachers, we feel that a great work devolves upon the churches. We recommend that the membership everywhere give liberally, cheerfully, and promptly, of their means and time, for the attainment of the objects we all hold dear.

Respectfully submitted,

EMANUEL SIPE, Chairman.

The report was adopted.

On motion of Col. E. Sipe, the name of the original Locust Grove Church was erased from the roll.

A motion was then made to admit to membership in the Conference Locust Grove Cnurch as at present reorganized. The motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

Rev. C. J. Ralston offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and are hereby tendered, to the members of this church and the people of the community, for the very hospitable manner in which they have entertained the members of this body during its present session.

On motion, Conference then adjourned, to meet with the church at Antioch, Rockingham county, Va., on Thursday before the first Sunday in September, 1879, at 10 o'clock A. M.

JESSE BURKHOLDER, PRESIDENT.

C. J. RALSTON, *Secretary.*

W. P. BYRD, *Assistant Secretary.*

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Deep River Christian Conference.

UNION GROVE, RANDOLPH COUNTY, N. C.,
Thursday, October 10, 1878.

THE DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE assembled here to-day, in its 14th annual session.

The body was called to order by Bro. H. T. Moffitt, President of the last session. The opening devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. A. S. Nelson.

The Standing Secretary, Bro. W. W. Hayworth, called the roll of ministers and churches, and the following enrollment was made :

ELDERS : W. R. Brown, P. P. Humble, W. W. Lawrence, W. M. Craven, W. G. Brady, A. S. Nelson, H. A. Albright.

LICENTIATE : S. H. Way.

LAY-DELEGATES : *From Pleasant Grove*—Wyatt Brady, A. D. Leonard, S. L. Moffitt, A. L. Needham, W. A. C. Bray, W. H. Hicks, Wm. Brown, Sr. *From Parks' Cross Roads*—H. G. Parks, Wm. Stout, H. C. Vestal. *From Shiloh*—H. T. Moffitt, H. T. Brady, Thomas Brady, S. T. Moffitt. *From Pleasant Ridge*—Wm. Cox, R. M. Hinson, Thomas Wrenn. *From Shady Grove*—G. W. McLeod, Harrison Freeman. *From New Centre*—John Crisco, Aaron E. Kennedy, Daniel Dunlap, J. M. Yow. *From Brown's Chapel*—E. C. Freeman, Nicholas Nalls. *From Mt. Zion*—D. R. Kennedy, Wm. Cagle. *From Oldham's Grove*—Thomas Riddle. *From New Bear Creek*—Thomas Brown. *From Union Grove*—Daniel C. Brown, B. S. Scott, J. R. Way.

A quorum being present, Conference went into the election of officers for the present session.

Bro. H. T. Moffitt was elected President, Rev. A. S. Nelson Vice-President, and Rev. W. R. Brown Assistant Secretary.

Rev. W. G. Brady then proceeded to deliver the annual sermon, choosing as his text 1st Cor. 3 : 11. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid."

The President announced the following Standing Committees:

Education—W. R. Brown, A. S. Nelson, P. P. Humble.

Sabbath Schools—D. C. Brown, Thos. Brady, H. C. Vestal.

Statistics—W. W. Lawrence, Thos. Riddle, D. R. Kennedy.

Publications—W. R. Brown, W. M. Craven, H. A. Albright, H. T. Bray.

Temperance—S. L. Moffitt, Enoch Freeman, John Crisco.

Memoirs—S. H. Way, R. Manly Hinson, Thomas Brown.

Home Missions—Wm. Brown, Sr., H. T. Bray, Wm. Cox, D. C. Brown, H. C. Vestal, A. E. Kennedy, G. M. McLeod, Enoch Freeman, Wm. Cagle, Thomas Brown, D. C. Williamson, Thomas Riddle.

On motion of Rev. P. P. Humble, the letters from the various churches were called for and read.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, Conference decided to meet each day at 9 A. M., take a recess at 11½ o'clock for refreshments, meet again at 1 P. M., and adjourn at will.

The body then adjourned until to-morrow. Devotional exercises were led by Rev. W. R. Brown.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, October 11, 1878.

The Conference met this morning, and was called to order by the President, Bro. H. T. Moffitt. The opening devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. H. A. Albright.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, Rev. J. T. Whitley, President of the General Convention, Editor of the *Christian Sun*, and Fraternal Messenger from the Eastern Virginia Conference, being present, was invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member. The invitation was accepted in a brief address.

Rev. John W. Hatch, a Fraternal Messenger from the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, being present, was welcomed to a seat as a deliberative member. Bro. Hatch made a few appropriate remarks on taking his seat in the body.

Rev. J. S. Lawrence arrived and was enrolled. Also Bros. C. D. Williamson and Raleigh Freeman, delegates from the church at New Providence, arrived and were enrolled.

Bros. G. W. Parks and Oliver Vestal were invited to seats as deliberative members.

On motion, a new church in Guilford county, called Smithwood, was received as a member of the Conference, and Bro. P. C. Humble welcomed as its representative.

Letters from the churches at New Providence and Shiloh were read.

It was directed that the ministers present their reports immediately after the opening of the afternoon session.

The President announced as a Committee on Religious Exercises, Rev. W. R. Brown, Bro. D. C. Brown, and Rev. H. A. Albright.

The letter from the church at New Centre was read.

On motion, Conference decided to hold its next annual session with the church at Parks' Cross Roads, Randolph county, North Carolina.

On motion, Rev. W. R. Brown was appointed to preach the introductory sermon at the annual session of 1879.

Rev. H. A. Albright moved that this Conference adopt the Declaration of Principles, Form of Government, and Directory for Worship, of the Christian Church. The motion was seconded, and the subject was discussed by the mover, and by Rev. W. R. Brown, Rev. W. M. Craven, Rev. P. P. Humble, Rev. W. G. Brady, and Rev. J. T. Whitley. The vote was then taken, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

A recess was then taken until after dinner.

Afternoon Session.

President Moffitt took the chair and called the Conference to order.

Ministers were called upon for their reports. The reports of the following ministers were read: W. M. Craven, H. A. Albright, P. P. Humble, W. W. Lawrence and W. G. Brady.

On motion, Conference went into the election of Fraternal Messengers to other Conferences.

Rev. H. A. Albright and Rev. P. P. Humble were appointed to the Eastern Virginia Conference, and Rev. J. S. Lawrence and Rev. W. R. Brown to the North Carolina and Virginia Conference.

Conference then went into the election of delegates to the General Convention of the Christian Church.

Rev. J. S. Lawrence and Bro. Hugh T. Moffitt were chosen delegates to the Convention, and Rev. W. R. Brown and Bro. E. A. Moffitt were appointed alternates.

The Committee on Memoirs stated that they had no report to make during the present session.

On motion, Conference decided to publish the proceedings of the present session in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL. The roll of churches was called, and a sufficient amount of money was paid in to defray the expense.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow. Worship in closing was conducted by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, October 12, 1878.

The Conference met this morning, and was called to order by the Vice-President, Rev. A. S. Nelson.

Rev. W. W. Lawrence conducted religious exercises.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Bro. E. C. Martin, of Shady Grove church, was welcomed to a seat as a deliberative member.

The Committee on Statistics made a tabulated report, showing the condition of the churches with respect to numbers. The report was received and ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

The Committee on Temperance offered the following report, which, on motion, was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report:

We recommend for your adoption the forcible language adopted last year by a sister Conference: "Notwithstanding much has been done to remove intemperance from our land, still thousands are annually falling from the fatal effects of strong drink, and the manufacture and traffic of ardent spirits continue almost wholly unrebuked.

"Men continue to sacrifice home and happiness, society and friendship, health and beauty, wealth and honor, heaven and immortality, time and eternity, upon the shrine of intemperance. This weight of degradation falls with humiliating force upon the Church. It wounds her integrity, weakens her influence, saps the fountain of her vitality, and, as it were, destroys her very life's blood, until an attempt to rebuke the evil but exposes Christianity to the taunts of its enemies."

And, in the language of a report adopted by this body at its last annual session: "With this truth looking us so unpleasantly in the face, it becomes us as the followers of the King of peace, to take a bold stand against this great and increasing evil, and endeavor to rid the Church of its ruinous influence. We recommend that Conference insist on the enforement by the churches of the provisions of the report adopted two years ago, as follows: 'Conference makes it a duty binding upon the individual churches, that when any of their members are known to be engaged in making, selling or drinking ardent spirits as a beverage, the churches shall deal with such members for disorderly conduct,

as may be deemed expedient. If any church fails to do so, it shall be answerble to Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. MOFFITT,
JOHN CRISCO,
E. FREEMAN,
} Committee.

Rev. Henry Lewallen, a Fraternal Messenger from the Methodist Protestant Conference of North Carolina, was introduced to the Conference by Rev. W. M. Craven, and made an interesting address in reference to fraternal relations between the two denominations. He was replied to in a brotherly spirit, by Rev. J. T. Whitley, President of the General Convention.

Conference then took a recess for preaching and refreshments. During the recess a sermon was preached in the grove by Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Afternoon Session.

Business was resumed, with the President in the chair.

The Committee on Sunday Schools offered the following report, which was adopted :

REPORT.

The Sabbath School cause has been, we feel, very sadly neglected in our Conference. After examining all the letters from the different churches, we find that only three of them have had any Sabbath School at all. We find that Shiloh has had an interesting school, and that Union Grove and Pleasant Grove have had schools all the summer. Brethren, cannot something be done to increase our interest in this great and mighty auxiliary of the Church? We hope that Conference will devise some plan by which this good work may become more generally fostered among us, and that all our churches may be induced to engage in it, feeling that a good Sabbath School at each church will very greatly assist in the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom.

D. C. BROWN,
H. C. VESTAL,
S. M. BRADY,
} Committee.

The Committee on Publications then offered their report, as follows :

REPORT.

Your Committee on Publications would report that we recognize in the press a wonderful power, and a most convenient medium of communication by which the public mind can be reached, and the truths of the gospel sown broad-cast, like seed, into the great field of the world. We are glad to see that our people are becoming more sensible of the power wielded by the press.

We have no periodical in the bounds of this Conference, but we cordially acknowledge the *Christian Sun*, ably edited by our esteemed and beloved brother, Rev. J. T. Whitley, to be the organ of the Christian Church. It is a very worthy journal, a fair and bold exponent of our denominational principles,

and an advocate of Christian union and a liberal Christianity. We would, therefore, heartily endorse the *Christian Sun* as the organ of this Conference, and recommend it as a good family newspaper, filled with instructive articles on religion, morality, temperance and general news.

We urge upon all the ministers and lay-members of this Conference, to exert themselves to secure a wide circulation for the *Sun*. We would further recommend that the Conference appoint an agent in each church, whose duty shall be to work for the *Sun* and endeavor to increase its circulation.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. BROWN,
W. M. CRAVEN,
H. T. BRAY,
H. A. ALBRIGHT,
} Committee.

After speeches by Rev. H. A. Albright, Rev. W. R. Brown, and Rev. J. T. Whitley, the congregation was canvassed in behalf of the paper. The report was then adopted.

The Committee on Home Missions made their report, which was discussed by Rev. Bros. W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, W. M. Craven and others, and adopted as follows:

REPORT.

We your Committee on Home Missions, make the following recommendations:

1. That Conference appoint a missionary, whose duties shall be: To labor within the territory of Conference, and at any other points which he may deem of importance; to visit all the churches one or more times during the year, preach a sermon on missions, and take up a collection for missionary purposes; to visit and preach at least once a month at New Providence, Brown's Chapel, Mt. Zion, New Bear Creek, and Smithwood. For these services we recommend that he be paid such a sum as may be fixed upon after consultation.

2. That Conference make no further assignment of labor to any minister, but leave to each church the privilege and duty of making its own arrangements for pastoral service.

3. That District Meetings be held, one embracing each fifth Sunday in the year, together with the Friday and Saturday preceding; that these meetings be composed of all ordained and licensed ministers in the Conference, and not more than two delegates from each of the churches; that the officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, the last named officer being the Treasurer of the Missionary Society; that these officers shall hold office for one year from the time of their election; that Conference appoint the place for holding the first meeting, and that each District Meeting shall have the power of selecting a place for the next; that all moneys collected for missionary purposes in the several churches shall be paid into the hands of the Treasurer at the District Meetings; that the missionary shall report at each District Meeting the amount of labor he has performed, and that the Treasurer then pay him for his services.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. BROWN, Sr., Chairman.

The following report of the Committee on Education was adopted:

REPORT.

We would report that Bro. David K. Ellis has been before us for examination, as an applicant for admission into the class of ministerial students. We recommend that he be admitted.

W. R. BROWN,
A. S. NELSON,
P. P. HUMBLE,
} Committee.

On motion, Bros. H. C. Vestal and C. D. Williamson were appointed a committee, to confer with a like committee from the Missionary Society, and to employ a missionary, in accordance with the provisions of the report of the committee on Home Missions. The joint committee, after consultation, announced that they had engaged Rev. W. R. Brown as missionary, allowing him for his services one dollar and fifty cents per day for every day that he may be actively engaged.

Rev. W. W. Lawrence and Rev. W. M. Craven were appointed Fraternal Messengers to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered to the church at Union Grove and the people of the neighborhood, for their generous hospitality.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing Conference year.

Executive Committee—W. R. Brown, A. S. Nelson, J. S. Lawrence, W. M. Craven, P. P. Humble.

Education—W. R. Brown, H. A. Albright, J. S. Lawrence.

Home Missions—H. C. Vestal, Wm. Cox, E. A. Moffitt, D. C. Brown, C. D. Williamson.

Sunday Schools—H. A. Albright, P. P. Humble, W. W. Hayworth.

Temperance—W. W. Lawrence, E. C. Freeman, A. L. Needham.

Religious Literature—W. R. Brown, E. A. Moffitt, Oliver Vestal, W. G. Brady, D. C. Brown.

Conference then took a recess until night.

NIGHT SESSION.

Conference met, with Rev. A. S. Nelson, Vice-President, in the chair.

On motion, the body suspended its business, to allow the Missionary Society to hold its annual meeting.

After the meeting of the Society was over, Conference resumed its business.

It was decided to hold the first District Meeting at Shiloh, beginning at 12 M., on Friday before the 5th Sunday in December, and continue through the Sabbath.

After some feeling remarks by the presiding officer, and appropriate devotional exercises, the Conference adjourned, to meet with the church at Parks' Cross Roads, Randolph county, N. C., on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1879, at 12 o'clock noon.

H. T. MOFFITT, PRESIDENT.

A. S. NELSON, VICE-PRESIDENT.

W. W. HAYWORTH, *Secretary.*

W. R. BROWN, *Assistant Secretary.*

Ministerial Reports.

P. P. HUMBLE.—Had pastoral charge of Shady Grove, and preached some at Smithwood and other places. Preached about 80 sermons, received 5 members, baptized 2, received $45.

W. W. LAWRENCE.—Had pastoral charge of Pleasant Ridge and Mt. Zion. Preached about 40 sermons and 2 funeral discourses. Received 6 members, and was paid $21.

W. M. CRAVEN.—I have had no pastoral charge. Have superintended a Sabbath School, preached 35 sermons, and received 7 members at Shiloh.

W. G. BRADY.—Had charge of Pleasant Grove and Oldham's Grove. Received 15 members, baptized 1. Received $80.50.

S. H. WAY.—Assisted Rev. W. G. Brady at Pleasant Grove, and Rev. W. R. Brown at Union Grove, and preached at various other points.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Received.	Removed.	Expelled.	Died.	Present Member ship.
Pleasant Grove	W. G. Brady	A. D. Leonard, S. L. Moffitt, A. L. Needham, W. H. Hicks, Wyatt Brady, W. Brown, Sr., W. A. C. Brady.	3	2	1	2	172
Shiloh	J. S. Lawrence	H. T. Moffitt, H. T. Bray, S. T. Moffitt, T. M. Brady.	14	1	1	1	121
Pleasant Ridge	W. W. Lawrence	Wm. Cox, R. M. Hinson, T. J. Wrenn	2	—	2	—	94
Parks' Cross Roads	M. L. Hurley	Gaston Parks, H. C. Vestal	—	—	—	2	65
Union Grove	W. R. Brown	D. C. Brown, B. S. Scot, J. R. Way	—	—	—	—	56
Shady Grove	P. P. Humble	H. Freeman, G. M. McLeod	4	1	3	—	49
New Providence	J. S. Lawrence	C. D. Williamson, R. Freeman	—	1	—	5	41
New Center	J. S. Lawrence	A. E. Kennedy, J. Crisco, D. Dunlap, J. M. Yow.	—	—	1	1	104
Brown's Chapel	J. S. Lawrence	N. Nalls, E. Freeman	9	—	2	—	38
Oldham's Grove	W. G. Brady	Thomas Riddle	12	—	—	—	30
Mt. Zion	W. W. Lawrence	D. R. Kennedy, W. Cagle	4	—	3	3	25
New Bear Creek	J. S. Lawrence	Thomas Brown	1	—	—	—	14
Smithwood	W. R. Brown	P. C. Humble	—	—	—	—	7
			49	5	13	14	816

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.

BARRETT'S, SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VA.,
Wednesday, October 30, 1878.

THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE began its fifty-eighth annual session at this place to-day.

In the temporary absence of the President of the last session, the Standing Secretary, Rev. J. T. Whitley, took the chair, and conducted the opening devotional exercises.

At the close of these exercises, Rev. C. A. Apple, President of the last session, having arrived, took the chair and called the Conference to order.

The Secretary called the roll of ministers and churches, and the following elders, licentiates, and lay-delegates were enrolled as present:

ELDERS.—C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, J. Pressley Barrett, J. T. Kitchen, J. N. Manning, J. T. Whitley.

LICENTIATE.—H. H. Butler.

LAY-DELEGATES.—*Antioch*: John M. Gay. *Barrett's*: C. H. Scarborough, L. J. White. *Berea* [Norfolk county]: Jas. T. Grenalds. *Cypress*: Josiah Wilkins, David P. Wright. *Damascus*: Wm. H. Speight. *Johnson's Grove*: James P. Davis, Murdock Butler. *Liberty Spring*: R. F. Rodgers, R. T. Rawls. *Mt. Carmel*: I. W. Duck. *Oakland*: James E. Pitt. *Spring Hill*: H. T. West. *Suffolk*: R. H. Rawles.

[For a full list of ministers and delegates present, see statistical table.]

A legal quorum of members being present, the fact was announced, and an election was held for President and Assistant Secretary of the present session.

Rev. John N. Nanning was unanimously elected President, and Bro. John M. Gay Assistant Secretary.

The President on taking the chair, addressed the Conference in a most eloquent and impressive manner.

On motion of Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. J. W. Wellons, of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, and Rev. C. J. Ralston, of the Virginia Valley Conference, being present, were invited to seats in the body as deliberative members. Both of these brethren made brief remarks in accepting the invitation.

The following members arrived and took their seats: Elders R. H. Holland and E. W. Beale; Dempsey Jones, from Holy Neck; Richard Copeland and R. H. Powell, from Bethlehem; W. J. Whitehead and Talbot H. Harrison, from Hebron; Jno. H. Harris, from Spring Hill; and John U. Newman, from Oakland.

Bros. R. E. Barrett and J. W. Barrett, ministerial students, were enrolled as deliberative members.

On motion, Conference took a recess of one hour, for refreshments.

Afternoon Session.

The President took the chair and called the body to order.

The annual sermon was then delivered by Rev. J. T. Kitchen, taking his text from Ruth 2 : 19: "Where hast thou gleaned to-day?" The discourse was well written, gracefully delivered, and made a very favorable impression upon the audience.

Conference resumed its business.

The following members arrived and were enrolled: S. J. Felton and Noah Felton, from Eure's Cross Roads; T. J. Clements, from Antioch; T. R. Gaskins, from Berea [Nansemond county]; Jesse Johnson, from Union.

On motion, Rev. M. B. Barrett and Bros. C. H. Scarborough and L. J. White, were appointed a committee on Religious Exercises.

An application for admission into the Conference was handed in from a new church called "Bethany," in Southampton county, Va. On motion, the church was received, and Bros. J. Walter Magee and J. T. Sheffield were recognized as its delegates.

An application was also handed in and read from a new church at Windsor, Isle of Wight county, Va., requesting admission into the Conference. On motion, the church was admitted, and Bros. A. M. Eley and M. L. Watkins recognized as its delegates.

On motion, the following schedule was adopted for the guidance of the body during its present session: Meet at 10 A. M.,

and take a recess at 12 M., for preaching and dinner; meet again at 2 P. M., and adjourn at will.

Reports were read from the following churches: Hebron, Barrett's, Bethlehem, Antioch, Cypress, Eure's Cross Roads.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. J. W. Wellons to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

The report of the Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools was read, and laid on the table until to-morrow.

The Conference then adjourned until to-morrow. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. R. H. Holland.

SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, October 31, 1878.

The President called the Conference to order, and appropriate opening exercises were conducted by Rev. E. W. Beale.

The roll of members was called, and the minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Reports were read from the following churches: Union, Damascus, Sharon, Suffolk, Windsor, Johnson's Grove, Mt. Carmel, Ivor, Berea [Norfolk county], Liberty Spring, Oakland, Bethany, and Berea [Nansemond county].

Col. Alex. Savage, Treasurer of the Conference, arrived and took his seat. Also arrived, Bros. Gilberry W. Hart and Geo. T. Rawls, delegates from Ivor.

Reports from the following ministers were read: C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, H. H. Butler, R. C. Tuck, Robert Rawls, J. T. Kitchen, S. S. Barrett, J. T. Whitley, C. J. Ralston, E. W. Beale.

On motion, the following brethren were appointed a committee to recommend a place for the next annual session of this body, and to suggest the name of a preacher of the introductory sermon: Rev. J. T. Whitley, M. L. Watkins, I. W. Duck.

Rev. J. T. Whitley stated to the President, that Rev. Thomas Holmes, D. D., of Chelsea, Michigan, was present, and moved that he be invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member. The motion was unanimously adopted, and Dr. Holmes was brought forward and introduced to the Conference.

On motion, Rev. R. H. Holland and Bros. John M. Gay and A. M. Eley, were appointed a committee to examine the records of the local churches.

Rev. C. A. Apple offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be, and that they are hereby, tendered to Rev. John T. Kitchen, for the able, instructive and excellent sermon delivered by him at the opening of the present session, and that Brother Kitchen be requested to furnish a copy of the sermon for publication in the *Christian Sun.*

The annual report of Rev. R. H. Holland was read.

On motion, the report on Sabbath Schools, laid on the table yesterday, was taken up, and after brief addresses by Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley and C. A. Apple, was adopted as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools are highly gratified to be able to report an ever-increasing prosperity as attending the labors of Sunday School workers throughout the world. Never were there so many schools as now; and every successive year witnesses an augmentation of the zeal and efficiency of God's people in this direction.

Especially in America is the Sunday School cause flourishing in the most vigorous growth. The adoption of the International Lesson system has given an unparalleled impetus to Bible study throughout the country, while numerous conventions, assemblies and normal classes contribute to increase the power of Sabbath School labors.

The churches of this Conference have done a noble work in this department of Christian effort. We believe that no churches similarly located, of any denomination in the State, are more thoroughly alive to the importance of this cause, or more actively and efficiently at work in its promotion. There are, we believe, about twenty-two schools in the Conference, and these are, almost without exception, well organized, using the International Lessons, and faithfully teaching the Word of God.

As the Sunday School Convention chiefly superintends this work in the bounds of this Conference, we have attempted little else than to co-operate with the Convention in its work. Useful information with regard to Sunday Schools has been disseminated throughout the year by the chairman of your committee, through the columns of the "Christian Sun." The outlook for the future of our schools is bright.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. WHITLEY,
M. B. BARRETT,
I. W. DUCK,
RICH'D COPELAND } Committee.

The Executive Committee submitted their report, which, after some remarks by Bro. A. Savage, was laid upon the table until the afternoon session.

A recess was then taken until 2 o'clock. During the recess a sermon was delivered by Rev. J. W. Wellons, from Psalm 122: 6: "They shall prosper that love thee."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference convened, with the President in the chair.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Kitchen, Bro. R. A. Ricks, a mem-

ber of the church at Union, was invited to a seat in the body, as a deliberative member.

The report of the Executive Committee was taken from the table for consideration. The Secretary stated that he had received a communication addressed to the Conference, and signed P. F. Duke, relating to a matter mentioned in the pending report. On motion, the report and the letter were referred back to the Executive Committee for additional consideration.

The committee appointed to recommend a place for holding the next session of this body, reported recommending that the next session be held with the new church at Windsor, Isle of Wight county, Va. The report was unanimously adopted.

Bros. I. W. Duck and M. L. Watkins, members of the same committee, recommended that Rev. J. T. Whitley be appointed to preach the introductory sermon at the next Conference. Bro. Whitley, chairman of the committee, dissented from this recommendation. The Conference, however, adopted the recommendation of the majority by a unanimous vote.

The committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. J. T. Whitley to preach to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Bro. I. W. Everett, a delegate from the church at Holy Neck, Bro. G. M. D. Watkins, from Mt. Carmel, and Bro. D. B. Dunbar, from Suffolk, arrived and took their seats.

The report from the church at Holy Neck was handed in and read.

The committee on Religious Literature offered their report, which was discussed by Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley, C. A. Apple, J. W. Wellons, Thomas Holmes, and E. W. Beale, after which it was laid on the table until to-morrow morning.

Conference then adjourned until to-morrow. Religious exercises by Rev. C. J. Ralston.

THIRD DAY.

FRIDAY, November 1, 1878.

President Manning called the Conference to order, and invited Rev. C. A. Apple to conduct the opening religious exercises.

The roll of members was called, and the proceedings of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Rev. J. T. Whitley tendered his resignation as Standing Secretary of the Conference, stating that he found his hands so full of church business as not to be able to give it proper attention if he retained the position. On motion, the resignation was accepted.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett was nominated and unanimously elected Standing Secretary, to fill the vacancy.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett offered a resolution touching the subject of a guarantee from ministerial students to the Committee on Education. Rev. C. A. Apple offered a substitute, which was amended, on motion of Bro. I. W. Duck, as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on Education be instructed to require of all ministerial students who are beneficiaries of this Conference, to give suitable guarantee with security, that in case they do not enter the ministry within such time as the Conference may deem reasonable, they will repay the amount expended by the Conference upon their education.

The resolution was discussed by Bro. I. W. Duck, Rev. J. W. Wellons, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Rev. E. W. Beale, and Bro. R. A. Ricks, and was adopted.

On motion, Fraternal Messengers to sister Conferences were elected as follows:

To the North Carolina and Virginia Conference: Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley, J. Pressley Barrett, E. W. Beale, J. N. Manning.

To the Deep River Conference: Rev. Bros. J. Pressley Barrett and J. T. Whitley.

To the Virginia Valley Conference: Rev. Bros. J. T. Kitchen, J. Pressley Barrett, E. W. Beale, and J. T. Whitley.

To the Georgia and Alabama Conference: Rev. J. T. Whitley.

A recess was then taken, during which Rev. J. T. Whitley preached a sermon from Luke 12: 15: "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Afternoon Session.

President Manning took the chair and called the body to order.

The Executive Committee, through their chairman, offered the following report:

REPORT.

The Executive Committee would submit for your consideration and approval the following actions which they have deemed it wise to take during the year:

1. Soon after the adjournment of Conference last year, they added Rev. J. Pressley Barrett to the Committee on Home Missions, deeming such action to be for the good of our cause.

2. During the month of July, it having been alleged that Liberty Spring Church, a member of this Conference, had acted illegally in the expulsion of one of its members without due process of law, we investigated the case in our official capacity. The investigation elicited the fact that A. J. Rabey had been

expelled from that church in a summary manner, without trial, for what many of the members of that church considered great provocation. We declared the expulsion null and void, and remanded the case to the church, to be acted upon according to our forms of law. This, we learn, was promptly done, and the member was duly tried and expelled.

3. At the regular session of the General Convention of the Christian Church, held in July last, two of the lay-delegates appointed by this Conference being absent, and there being no lay-alternates present, we appointed Rev. Bros. C. A. Apple and J. P. Barrett as delegates in their stead. The Convention, after some discussion as to the legal aspects of the case, admitted the brethren to membership. Bro. Apple served throughout the session, but Bro. Barrett, doubting the legality of his appointment, declined to serve.

No other business has received our attention.

J. T. WHITLEY,
J. N. MANNING, } Committee.
E. W. BEALE,

The report was taken up by sections, the first and second of which, after an explanation by the chairman, were adopted.

Upon reading the third section, Rev. M. B. Barrett moved to amend by disapproving the action of the committee in that matter.

It was discussed by Col. A. Savage and Rev. J. T. Whitley. —Rev. C. A. Apple moved the previous question. Not agreed to.

Here a lengthy and spirited discussion followed, which was participated in by Rev. Bros. C. A. Apple, M. B. Barrett, J. P. Barrett, Col. A. Savage, Rev. J. T. Whitley, Bro. Richard Copeland, Rev. J. T. Kitchen, Bro. Josiah Wilkins and Rev. J. W. Wellons. The vote was called for and taken by ayes and noes, with the following result:

Ayes.—Messrs. M. B. Barrett, J. P. Barrett, R. H. Holland, Grenalds, Davis, Murdock Butler, Duck, Whitehead, Harrison, Harris, Clements, Jesse Johnson, Hart, Geo. T. Rawls, G. M. D. Watkins and Dunbar.—16.

Noes.—Messrs. Apple, Kitchen, Manning, Whitley, Beale, H. H. Butler, Scarborough, White, Wilkins, Wright, Speight, Rodgers, R. T. Rawls, Pitt, West, Jones, Copeland, Powell, Newman, Magee and Sheffield.—21.

Absent or Not Voting.—Messrs. Gay, R. H. Rawles, S. J. Felton, Noah Felton, Gaskins, Eley, M. L. Watkins. and Everett.—8.

The Conference therefore sustained the committee, and the report as a whole was adopted.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. Thomas Holmes, D. D.

FOURTH DAY.

SATURDAY, November 2, 1878.

The President called the Conference to order.

Devotional services were conducted by Bro. John U. Newman.

The roll was called, and names of absent members noted.—The proceedings of the last session were read, corrected and approved.

Bro. T. R. Gaskins, from Berea [Nansemond], handed in the name of Col. A. Savage as a delegate from that church. Bro. Savage was admitted.

The report on Religious Literature was called from the table and adopted as follows:

REPORT.

With regard to the cause of Religious Literature among our people, your committee deem one or two points of sufficient importance to claim the attention of this body during its present session. We may mention two classes of religious literature, as most valuable to us in spreading the distinctive principles of our beloved church.

I.—Periodical Literature, of which the *Christian Sun* is our main representative. In a financial sense, the *Sun* is making steady progress. We learn from the proprietors, that its subscription list is larger now than at any time during the past eight years. While this fact is encouraging, the paper needs a still more liberal support, to enable it to pay off the debt now resting upon it, and so place it upon a sound financial basis. We think there is a fair prospect of a successful career before our denominational organ; and in order to secure this prosperity, we urge that every delegate in this body, and all other friends of our cause, do their utmost to extend its circulation. A year ago, at the Conference at Mt. Carmel, several friends pledged themselves to secure during the year a certain number of subscribers. We hope that they redeemed their pledges, and are ready to engage again in this work.

II.—Books and Tracts are of much importance, and at some day may be more widely circulated than now. However, your committee have little to do in this direction, since the General Convention has a committee to manage this matter for the denomination at large.

Fraternally submitted,

J. N. MANNING,
J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
J. T. KITCHEN,
} Committee.

Rev. C. A. Apple offered the following report from the Committee on Education:

REPORT:

We your Committee on Education, beg leave to report:

1. That our work during the present year has been attended with a reasonable degree of success, although the stringency of financial affairs has rendered it a task of peculiar difficulty.

2. The Suffolk Collegiate Institute, the only high school officially recognized by this Conference, has felt, in common with almost all other similar institutions, the depression arising from the financial troubles of the country. The session of 1877--1878, under the presidency of Rev. C. A. Apple, was moderately successful. At the close of that session, the President seriously doubting his ability to get, out of the tuition fees, a reasonable maintenance for himself and family, and at the same time allow a sufficient compensation to the subordinate members of the faculty, tendered his resignation to the Board of Trustees. The Board, however, unwilling to be without his services, insisted on re-electing him to the presidency. Bro. Apple was at length induced to accept, upon the condition, that he could withdraw at any time, if the patronage of the school should prove insufficient for his support, or if, for any reason, he should deem it best to sever his connection with the school. The present session opened with so small a number of pupils, that Brother Apple concluded he could not safely continue through another year without the greatest detriment to himself. It is due to Bro. Apple to say that he communicated this conclusion to the President of the Board of Trustees before the opening of the session, and suggested a doubt as to the propriety of entering upon the session at all. At the urgent solicitation of friends of the school, however, he consented to open the session as usual, and continue in it until some other arrangement could be made. The Board of Trustees met, accepted Brother Apple's resignation, and elected Rev. E. W. Beale temporary Superintendent of the school, with full powers to secure competent teachers to carry on the school. Bro. Beale has made an arrangement which we think will give general satisfaction. The exercises of the school have thus gone forward without interruption, and will doubtless so continue to the end of the session in June next. We trust our people will rally to the support of the Institute, and not suffer it to fail entirely for want of support.

3. From the report of the proceedings of the District Meetings, it will be seen that your committee has not been idle in the good work of impressing upon our people the great and vital importance of education as a means of promoting God's cause and God's glory.

4. During the past year, Bros. H. H. Butler, John U. Newman, Robert E. Barrett and Jay Wm. Barrett, candidates for the ministry, have been at school; Bro. Butler a small part of the time, and the others during the whole year. Besides their regular tuition in school, they have received special instructions preparatory to ministerial work from Bros. Apple and Whitley. The latter brother, in addition to all his other work, lectured twice a month in the school upon Biblical and other moral topics. Bro. Apple, besides teaching these young men free of all charge for tuition, bought and paid for their text books out of his own private purse. We think the Conference ought, at least, to reimburse him for this expenditure.

5. Rev. E. W. Beale has furnished board to the ministerial students since your last session. From the District Meetings the committee has collected $69.93 in cash, besides which we have pledges to the amount of $39.50. From other sources we have received about $180. There is still due Brother Beale about $130, which we hope the Conference will at once take steps to pay, as it will seriously embarrass Bro. Beale to do without this much longer.

6. We recommend that, when the Conference shall reach this article, in the consideration of this report, the Secretary be instructed to call the roll of churches, and ascertain how much the delegates will pledge for their respective churches towards the support of ministerial students; and that an additional effort be made to collect from the congregation present in the Conference room, whatever the people may be willing to give.

7. Bro. H. H. Butler was recommended by the church at Sharon for ordination, and we have carefully examined him with a view to such a measure.

After serious consideration of the matter, we are unanimously of the opinion that Bro. Butler's ordination at this time would not be for his own good or that of the cause.

8. We have examined Bro. John U. Newman, with a view to his receiving license as a probationer to preach the gospel. We recommend that he receive such license at the present sitting of Conference, and be advised to preach under the direction of this committee, whenever the providence of God may seem to open the way.

9. Bro. Murdock Butler, a member of the church at Johnson's Grove, has been examined by us with reference to his call to the ministry, and has been admitted into the ministerial class. We recommend that he, with Bros. Robert E. Barrett and Jay Wm. Barrett, continue under the supervision of this committee, pursuing their studies as they may have opportunity and as the committee may direct.

10. We renew our recommendation of last year, that all candidates for the ministry be encouraged to use all possible exertions to contribute as much as possible toward their own support. A manly, self-reliant spirit is one which cannot be too forcibly recommended to every man who looks forward to the position of a minister of the gospel.

C. A. APPLE,
J. N. MANNING,
J. T. WHITLEY,
E. W. BEALE,
} Committee.

The report was then taken up by sections. Each was read, discussed, and adopted, and then the report was adopted as a whole. In accordance with section six a collection was taken up for ministerial education, and $430 was pledged as the result.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, Conference directed the Treasurer to pay to Rev. E. W. Beale and Rev. C. A. Apple the contingent fund amounting to $51.32, dividing it between them in proportion to the amounts of their respective claims for board and text-books furnished ministerial students.

Rev. C. A. Apple stated that he wished to make a statement of a painful nature. He said that after a long and painful consideration of the subject, he felt that probably his home was no longer among us; and, with some allusions to his connection with this Conference, he asked for and obtained a certificate of his standing and character in this body, for such use as he might hereafter find necessary.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, ex-secretary of this body, presented his report of the District Meetings, which was adopted.

On motion, it was decided to publish the minutes of this Conference in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL for 1878.

A recess was then taken.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President took the chair.

The report on Church Records was handed in and adopted as follows:

REPORT.

We, your Committee on Church Records, beg leave to make the following report:

We have examined carefully the church records, and find them mainly correct, with some slight discrepancy in two as to church agreement and history.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. HOLLAND,
JOHN M. GAY,
A. M. ELEY,
} Committee.

Rev. J. T. Whitley, President of the General Convention, called attention to certain recommendations of that body.

On motion, a Committee on Finance was appointed to take into consideration the recommendation of the General Convention on that subject. The following compose the committee: Col. A. Savage, T. J. Clements, I. W. Duck, H. T. West and Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Rev. M. B. Barrett moved that this Conference do not approve the recommendation touching the districting of the Conference. Agreed to.

Rev. Dr. Holmes, of Michigan, addressed the Conference, presenting the Christian greetings of his brethren at home to us. His remarks were eloquent and stirring.

Rev. J. T. Whitley offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Conference express its sincere pleasure at the appointment of Rev. J. W. Wellons as the Evangelist of the General Convention, and extend to him a cordial invitation to labor within its territory, promising him all possible co-operation in his work.

Rev. E. W. Beale offered the following report on Home Missions:

REPORT.

The committee on Home Missions submit the following report:

In this very important work of the Church encouraging progress has been made during the past year. Your committee, through its Financial Secretary and other agents, has kindled an enthusiasm among our people, with reference to this cause, hitherto unknown. Missionary societies have been organized in many of the churches, sermons have been preached upon this subject, and other efforts have been put forth; all of which, we believe, have been attended with good results. Additional pledges in the way of interest bearing notes, have been obtained, and interest on old pledges has been collected. The financial condition of our mission cause may be ascertained by referring to the Treasurer's report.

Much credit is due to the Financial Secretary, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, for his untiring devotion to the work. To his labors, under the blessing of God, does this Conference owe the success already attained in this direction. We recommend that his expenses for the past year be paid by this Conference.

We further recommend that Bethany, in Southampton county, be recognized as a mission station, and that Conference make an appropriation of one hundred and thirty dollars from the missionary funds, to engage Rev. J. P. Barrett to preach there once a month during the next Conference year.

We would report that the churches have made the following arrangements for pastoral service for next year: Suffolk, J. T. Whitley; Holy Neck and Spring Hill, J. P. Barrett; Damascus, Eure's Cross Roads, Liberty Spring and Hebron, C. J. Ralston; Union, Ivor and Cypress, J. T. Kitchen; Barrett's, Johnson's Grove and Mt. Carmel, M. B. Barrett; Sharon, H. H. Butler; Berea [Nansemond], Bethlehem, Antioch, Oakland and Windsor, E. W. Beale; Providence, R. C. Tuck, Bethany, Liberty and Berea [Norfolk], to be supplied.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. BEALE,
ALEX. SAVAGE,
H. T. WEST,
J. M. GAY,
} Committee.

The report was discussed and adopted.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Whitley, Conference directed the Treasurer to pay to Rev. J. P. Barrett seventy-five dollars, to reimburse him for expenses incurred in doing his work as Financial Secretary during the past year.

Col. A. Savage, the Treasurer, then presented his report as follows:

REPORT.

ALEXANDER SAVAGE, TREASURER,

In account with the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference:

1877.			
Nov. 5,	To amount deposited in Farmers Bank,	$450.68	
" "	Interest on same 12 months,	27.04	
1878.			
Nov. 5.	To amount collected as interest on notes due Nov. 1, 1878,	377.63	
" "	To amount collected from churches for incidental expenses,	23.65	
Nov. 5.	By amount paid to Financial Secretary,		$ 13.00
" "	By amount paid to order of Ex. Committee,		10.15
" "	By amount paid out per order of Conference to Rev. C. A. Apple and Rev. E. W. Beale,		51.32
" "	By amount to Rev. J. P. Barrett for services for year 1878,		75.00
" "	By amount to Rev. J. P. Barrett for Conference year 1879,		130.00
		$879.00	$279.47
		279.47	
1878.			
Nov. 5.	To balance to credit of Conference,	$599.53	

The committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. Thomas Holmes, D. D., to preach to-morrow (Sunday) at 11 o'clock in the house, and Rev. J. W. Wellons to preach in the grove at the same hour.

The President was directed to make arrangements for licensing Bro. John U. Newman immediately before the public service on Sunday morning.

Brother Thomas J. Clements offered the following resolutions, which were adopted by a unanimous vote:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and hereby tendered, to the pastor, Rev. M. B. Barrett, and to this church and community, who have entertained us so well during the sitting of this body.

Resolved, That we appreciate the kindness of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad Company, in passing delegates and visitors for one fare.

A subscription was taken up for the Wellons monument.

The President announced the following Standing Committees:

Education—J. T. Whitley, E. W. Beale, J. T. Kitchen.

Home Missions—E. W. Beale, J. P. Barrett, M. B. Barrett, Alexander Savage, H. T. West.

Sunday Schools—R. H. Holland, I. W. Duck, D. B. Dunbar, Richard Copeland, T. J Clements.

Religious Literature—J. P. Barrett, H. H. Butler, A. M. Eley, P. H. Lee, T. R. Gaskins.

Executive Committee—E. W. Beale, M. B. Barrett, R. H. Holland.

On motion, the President, Rev. J. N. Manning, was added to the Committee on Education, and made chairman of the Executive Committee.

On motion, Conference adjourned, to meet with the church at Windsor, Isle of Wight county, Va., on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November, 1879.

Rev. Dr. Holmes offered a fervent prayer, and the President pronounced the benediction.

JOHN N. MANNING, PRESIDENT.

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, *Secretary*.

JOHN M. GAY, *Assistant Secretary*.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Members rep'd last session.	Received since.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Connected with Sunday Sch'ls.	Amount Paid Pastor.	To Educate Y'ung Preach'rs	For Other Purposes.	Whole Amount.	Value of Ch'ch Property.
Antioch	E. W. Beale.	T. J. Clements, J. M. Gay	469	46	3	20	6	5	481	138	$250	$22 42	$30 00	$302 42	$2,000
Barrett's	M. B. Barrett	C. H. Scarborough, L J. White	169		1	2	...	8	158	78	100			100 00	800
Bethlehem	E. W. Beale.	Richard Copeland, R. H. Powell	239	2	1	...	1	...	239	71	150			150 00	600
Berea (Nans'd).	E. W. Beale.	T. R. Gaskins, A. Savage	84	3	...	...	1	...	86	55	175	100 00	48 80	323 80	1,400
Berea (Norfolk)	R. C. Tuck	James T. Grenalds	61	6	...	1	1	...	65	86					800
Cypress	J. T. Kitchen	J. Wilkins, D. P. Wright	304		2	9	4	...	289	39	125	10 00	75 00	210 00	1,500
Damascus	C. J. Ralston	William Speight	182	2	2	...	1	8	173		125		20 00	145 00	1,200
Eure's X Roads	C. J. Ralston	J. S. Felton, Noah Felton	91	4	1	...	1	1	92	68	75		600 00	675 00	800
Hebron	C. J. Ralston	W. J. Whitehead, T. H. Harrison	143	35	...	...	...	4	174	58	125			125 00	1,000
Holy Neck	C. A. Apple.	Dempsey Jones, I. W. Everett	410	66	...	2	4	2	468	82	200	25 00	100 00	325 00	1,500
Ivor	J. T. Kitchen	G. T. Rawls, G. W. Hart	39	1	...	...	...	3	37	16	50		10 00	60 00	800
Jerusalem	No Pastor	No Delegate			...	...	...	...	25						800
Johnson's Gr've	M. B. Barrett	J. P. Davis, M. W. Butler	83	6	...	1	1	5	82	44	75		10 00	85 00	600
Liberty	No Pastor	No delegate	46		...	...	...	...	46						800
Liberty Spring.	C. J. Ralston	R. F. Rogers, R. T. Rawls	101	2	...	...	...	2	101	109	100	40 00	10 00	150 00	1,000
Mt. Carmel	M. B. Barrett	I. W. Duck, G. M. D. Watkins	149	13	...	...	...	1	161	162	100			100 00	1,000
Oakland	E. W. Beale	J. T. Pitt, J. U. Newman	72	2	...	4	1	...	69	45	125		80 00	205 00	1,000
Providence	R. C. Tuck	No delegate	50		...	...	...	...	50			15 00		15 00	1,000
Sharon	R. C. Tuck	No delegate	43	8	...	1	...	...	50	81	11			11 00	300
Spring Hill	C. A. Apple	H. T. West, J. H. Harris	154	8	...	...	3	1	158	50	225	23 83		248 83	1,000
Suffolk	J. T. Whitley.	R. H. Rawles, D. B. Dunbar	169	7	5	4	...	...	167	119	500	50 00	210 00	760 00	3,000
Union	J. T. Kitchen	J. S. Johnson	101	22	...	1	2	—	120	35	100		15 00	115 00	1,000
Windsor	E. W. Beale	M. L. Watkins, A. M. Eley		22	...	...	...	...	22						900
Bethany	J. P. Barrett	J. W. Magee, J. T. Sheffield		17	...	...	...	...	17	46					300
			3159	272	15	45	26	40	3346	1382	$2,611	286.25	120880	4.106,05	$25.100

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

NAME.	CHURCHES IN CHARGE.	Sermons Preached.	Lectures Delivered.	Prayer Meetings Held.	Conversions in Charge.	Pastoral Visits Paid.	Funerals.	Marriages.	SALARY.
C. A. Apple	Holy Neck and Spring Hill	70	50	10	110	150	6	5	$425,00
J. Pressley Barrett	Bethany	30	50	——	——	——	3	5	——
M. B. Barrett	Mt. Carmel, Barrett's, and Johnson's Grove.	60	10	10	15	40	10	15	250,00
S. S. Barrett	None	——	——	——	——	——	5	9	——
E. W. Beale	Antioch, Bethlehem, Berea and Oakland	76	23	40	47	100	17	22	850,00
H. H. Butler	None	——	——	——	——	——	——	——	——
R. H. Holland	None	6	——	25	——	——	6	25	——
J. T. Kitchen	Cypress, Union and Ivor	60	5	5	26	85	7	12	275,00
J. N. Manning	None	——	——	——	——	——	——	——	——
C. J. Ralston	Liberty Spring, Hebron, Damascus, and Eure's X Roads.	130	40	45	64	100	24	24	425,00
Robert Rawls	None	6	25	15	——	——	1	4	——
R. C. Tuck	Berea (Norfolk), Providence and Sharon.	50	2	5	37	50	1	3	50,00
J. T. Whitley	Suffolk	110	60	45	13	50	2	2	500,00
		593	265	200	312	575	82	126	$2,775

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

North Carolina and Virginia

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

DAMASCUS, ORANGE COUNTY, N. C.,
Friday, November 15, 1878.

THE NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met in its fifty-third annual session at this place to-day.

Conference was called to order at 11 o'clock A. M., by Rev. W. S. Long, President of the last session. Religious exercises were conducted by Rev. A. G. Anderson.

The following ministers answered to their names :

ELDERS.—A. G. Anderson, J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, W. G. Clements, J. W. Hatch, R. G. Tinnen, M. L. Hurley, J. W. Holt, J. W. Pinnix, D. F. Jones, S. Apple, Peter T. Klapp, C. A. Boon, W. W. Staley.

LICENTIATE.—A. F. Iseley.

The list of churches was called, and found to be represented by lay-delegates as follows :

O'Kelly's Chapel—J. F. O'Kelly. *New Elam*—Sion Mitchell, Ruffin Holt. *Hines' Chapel*—Samuel Apple. *Mt. Bethel*—W. C. Truitt, Thos. R. Strader. *Liberty Hill*—L. G. Ayscue. *Pleasant Hill*—(Chat.)—S. Edwards, W. G. Murchison. *Pleasant Grove* (Va.)—John H. Chappell. *Concord*—G. W. Pinnix. *Christian Chapel*—M. S. Stevens, N. G. Woodell. *Shallow Well*—W. A. J. Thomas, Isaac Hunt. *Shallow Ford*—Peter Michael. *Mt. Pisgah*—J. C. Firesheets. *Pleasant Union*—No delegate. *Moore Union*—S. M. Burns. *New Providence*—Jos. A. Long, Joseph McAdams, Dr. B. A. Sellars. *Catawba Springs*—J. A. Sorrell. *Mt. Auburn*—No delegate. *Union (Va.)*—E. A. Tuck, P. W. S. Tuck, W. H. Buntin. *Antioch*

—Lawrence Dowdy. *Hanks' Chapel*—Thomas J. Griffin, W. S. Petty. *Pleasant Hill (J'n)*—J. W. Dixon. *Morrisville*—Charles Pennington, J. H. Moring. *Oak Level*—Joseph Pearce, Wm. T. Young. *Hayes' Chapel*—J. T. Ball, W. P. Collins. *Mt. Zion*—No delegate. *Damascus*—Manly Stroud, M. J. W. McCauley. *Lebanon*—No delegate. *Apple's Chapel*—S. C. W. Apple. *Good Hope*—J. F. Davis. *Pope's Chapel*—No delegate. *Bethlehem*—P. J. Kernodle *Salem Chapel*—H. Marshall, R. J. Massey. *Martha's Chapel*—J. J. Jinkins, S. A. Morgan. *Union (N. C.)*—G. R. Maynard. *Wake Chapel*—D. B. Jones, G. B. Adams. *Bethel*—No delegate. *Reece's Chapel*—No delegate. *Pleasant Grove, (N. C.)*—No delegate. *Liberty School House*—No delegate. *Zion*—G. W. Ellington, W. H. Wicker. *Mt. Hermon*—Festus Stevens, Z. R. Kelley.

Conference then proceeded to elect a President for the present session. The vote resulted in the election of Rev. J. W. Wellons.

On motion, Bro. Peter J. Kernodle was elected Assistant Secretary.

A letter from a new church called Mt. Hermon, situated in Wake county, N. C., petitioning for admission into the body, was read by the Secretary, and on motion, the petition was granted and the delegates were introduced to the Conference and enrolled as members.

On motion, Conference decided to meet each day at 9 o'clock A. M., spend 20 minutes in prayer-meeting, adjourn at 12 M., for preaching ; meet at 2 o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

Rev. A. Apple, appointed at last session to preach the Annual Sermon, being absent on account of sickness, no sermon was preached.

On motion, the Rules of Order were suspended until 1 o'clock P. M.

On motion, Rev. W. S. Long and the delegates from Damascus were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

A letter from Rev. B. Craven, Secretary of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, declaring Rev. W. H. Moore, Rev. T. J. Gattis, and Hon. W. F. Stroud, Fraternal Messengers to this body, was read by the Secretary, and on motion 11½ o'clock Monday was set apart for their formal reception.

Several delegates arrived and were enrolled as members of Conference.

On motion, the recommendation requiring the Standing Committees to report at stated times adopted at last session, was adopted by this session of Conference.

Conference adjourned.

Afternoon Session.

Conference was called to order by the President.

Several delegates came forward and were enrolled as members of Conference.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted their report, which was discussed by Rev. Bros. D. F. Jones, A. F. Iseley, A. G. Anderson and others, after which it was amended and referred back to the committee.

On motion, the church letters were handed in and read.

Conference adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. W. G. Clements.

SECOND DAY.

Saturday, November 16, 1878.

Conference convened, the President in the chair. Religious services by the President.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported Rev. S. Apple to preach to-day at 12 o'clock M.

On motion, Conference proceeded to elect a minister to deliver the Annual Sermon before the next session of this body. Rev. J. W. Holt was elected, and Rev. M. L. Hurley was chosen alternate.

Rev. W. S. Long then introduced Rev. Dr. Thomas Holmes, of the Michigan State Christian Conference, to the President of Conference, and the President introduced him to the body. Dr. Holmes made some very feeling remarks in Christian greeting, in reference to the relations existing between the Northern Christians and the Christians South. He expressed sentiments soliciting more intimate relations of fraternal intercourse.

The President responded in some words of welcome and fraternal feeling.

On motion, Rev. Bros. J. T. Whitley and E. W. Beale, and Bro. D. B. Dunbar, Fraternal Messengers from the Eastern Virginia Conference, were invited to seats in the body as deliberative members. These brethren responded in some appropriate remarks upon taking their seats.

The Committee on Religious Literature submitted their report.

On motion, the report was made the special order for 2 o'clock.

On motion, Conference proceeded to select a place for holding its next annual session. Christian Chapel, Chatham county, N. C., was selected.

A motion to change the time of the annual session was indefinitely postponed.

On motion, Conference proceeded to elect Fraternal Messengers to sister Conferences, as follows:

To the Virginia Valley Conference: Rev. Bros. J. W. Wellons, J. W. Pinnix, and W. S. Long.

To the Deep River Conference: Rev. Bros. W. W. Staley, W. G. Clements, W. S. Long, J. W. Hatch, and J. W. Wellons.

To the Eastern Virginia Conference: Rev. Bros. J. W. Pinnix, J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp, D. A. Long, J. W. Wellons, and Bro. J. T. Ball.

To the Georgia and Alabama Conference: Rev. J. W. Wellons.

Rev. W. S. Long offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That any member of this Conference who may, in the providence of God, be present at the session of any Christian Conference in the Northern States, be hereby authorized to bear to our Northern brethren our Christian greetings.

On motion, Rev. W. T. Walker, fraternal messenger from the Virginia Valley Conference, was invited to a seat in the body.

Conference adjourned for dinner.

During the intermission a sermon was preached by Rev. S. Apple, from Matt. 19: 27.

Afternoon Session.

The report on Religious Literature was taken up and discussed by Bro. J. T. Ball, Rev. Thomas Holmes, D. D., and Rev. J. T. Whitley, after which it was adopted as follows:

REPORT.

The Committee on Religious Literature beg leave to submit their report:

We feel satisfied that without the aid of the Press we cannot succeed in carrying forward the various enterprises of our Conference. Without an exponent of our principles, and a medium of communication, we cannot hope to see our entire strength utilized, or our cause prosper. We can neither keep our own people alive, nor reach the minds of strangers, in reference to the great work we are endeavoring to accomplish.

We have no paper published in the interest of our cause within the bounds of this Conference, but the *Christian Sun*, published at Suffolk, Va., very well meets our wants for the present, and we recommend it as worthy of a hearty

support from the members of this Conference. Soon after last Conference we appointed a local agent in each church to act in behalf of the *Sun*, but a number of those appointed did but little or nothing for the paper.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. HOLT,
M. L. HURLEY,
J. W. HATCH,
} Committee.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported the following appointments for preaching: Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, in the house, Rev. Thomas Holmes, D. D.; at the stand at the same hour, Rev. W. T. Walker; 2 o'clock P. M., in the house, Rev. J. T. Whitley; at the stand at the same hour, Rev. E. W. Beale.

Conference adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. A. F. Iseley.

THIRD DAY.

MONDAY, November 18, 1878.

Conference convened, the President in the chair. Religious services by the President.

The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

On motion, Hon. Jno. M. Moring was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

The Committee on Home Missions submitted their report which was discussed by Hon. J. M. Moring and Rev. Bros. J. W. Wellons, J. T. Whitley and P. T. Klapp.

The time for a special order having arrived, the report was made a special order for 2 o'clock P. M.

Rev. W. H. Moore and Hon. W. F. Stroud, fraternal messengers from the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were then introduced to the President and the Conference. These brethren made some appropriate remarks of fraternal greeting in accepting their seats among us.

A letter from Rev. T. J. Gattis, an absent member of the same delegation, was also read by the Secretary. Bro. Gattis expressed feelings of regret at not being able to attend in person.

The President responded in some words of welcome and fraternal love.

Rev. W. S. Long offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, We have heard with feelings of profound gratitude to God the words of Christian salutation and love from our brethren of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, therefore,

Resolved, That in order to convey to that body proper expressions of our Christian love, we will appoint two of our number as fraternal messengers to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Rev. W. S. Long, and Hon. J. M. Moring were appointed. Rev. Peter T. Klapp was appointed alternate.

Conference adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference convened, the President in the chair.

The report of the Committee on Home Missions was taken up and discussed by Rev. Bros. A. G. Anderson, W. G. Clements and W. S. Long, after which it was referred back to the Committee, with instruction to recommend some plan for future operations.

Rev. D. F. Jones moved that the recommendation of the General Convention in reference to districting the churches of the several Conferences, be adopted by this Conference.

The question was discussed by Rev. P. T. Klapp, Bro. J. T. Ball and Rev. J. T. Whitley.

Rev. W. S. Long moved to amend, by referring the matter to the various churches with the recommendation that they instruct their delegates in reference to the matter before the next Conference.

Pending the discussion of the amendment, Conference adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. S. Apple.

FOURTH DAY.

TUESDAY, November 19th, 1878.

Conference convened, the President in the chair. Religious exercises by Rev. J. W. Hatch.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The matter before Conference at the hour of adjournment yesterday was then discussed by Rev. Bros. M. L. Hurley, W. G. Clements, W. T. Walker, and others.

On motion of Rev. A. F. Iseley, the Rules requiring Conference to adjourn at 12 o'clock M., were suspended, and Conference proceeded with its business.

The question being called, the vote was taken, and Brother Long's amendment was lost.

The question being called upon the original motion, the recommendation of the General Convention was adopted.

On motion, Rev. M. L. Hurley, and Bros. G. W. Pinnix and W. S. Petty, were appointed a Committee on Church Records.

On motion, Bros. J. H. Moring, G. B. Adams, B. B. Jones, and J. A. Sorrell were excused from further attendance upon the present session of this body.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, Hon. Kemp P. Battle, LL. D., President of the University of North Carolina, and Rev. A. W. Mangum, A. M., Professor in the same institution, were invited to seats in Conference as deliberative members. These brethren responded in some appropriate and encouraging remarks.

They were responded to by the President.

On motion, the minutes of Conference were ordered to be printed in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL.

On motion, Rev. Bros. S. Apple and A. F. Iseley, and Bro. H. Marshall, were appointed a Committee on Memoirs.

The Secretary presented an account of $2.00 for stationery &c., which was paid by the Conference.

On motion, the Secretary was requested to write up the proceedings of this body for the years 1871–1878, with the promise that he should be remunerated for his services when such service is rendered.

On motion, M. S. Stevens and N. G. Woodell were excused from further attendance upon this session.

Conference then took a recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference convened, the President in the chair.

On motion of Rev. S. Apple, the following brethren were appointed a committee to district the churches and report to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M.: Rev. Bros. J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, P. T. Klapp, A. G. Anderson, W. G. Clements and Bro. A. Moring.

Rev. J. W. Hatch offered the following Memorial which was unanimously adopted:

MEMORIAL.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in North Carolina at its late session having asked the co-operation of other religious bodies in memorializing the General Assembly to prohibit the railroads operating in this State from violating the sanctity of the Sabbath day; we the North Carolina and Virginia Chris-

tian Conference do heartily join our brethren in such memorial, and do earnestly petition our legislators to enact such laws as will prevent all, whether individuals or corporations, from desecrating the Lord's day. To the same end we do further request that our representatives in the General Assembly memorialize our Senators and Representatives in Congress to prohibit the delivery of the mails on the Sabbath day, believing as we do that the voice of the Government should point an example to its citizens to respect the Divine commands of Him upon whom we depend for the perpetuity of all our beneficial institutions.

It is hereby made the duty of the Secretary of this Conference to forward a copy of this memorial to the General Assembly of North Carolina at its next session.

Rev. P. T. Klapp offered the following which was adopted:

Resolved, That we hereby tender our thanks to the citizens of this community, who have entertained us so well during the sitting of this Conference.

Resolved, That we appreciate the kindness extended to us by the railroads, in passing delegates and visitors for one fare.

Rev. W. S. Long, from a special committee appointed at the last session, offered the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee appointed at the last session of this Conference to confer with a like committee appointed by the North Carolina District of the Methodist Protestant Church, in reference to a union of the two bodies, ask leave to report:

After the adjournment of your last session, we opened a correspondence with the committee of the Methodist Protestant Church, and arranged for a meeting of the two committees to take place in Graham, N. C., July 3, 1878.

There were present at this meeting Rev. A. W. Lineberry, D. D., Rev. R. H. Wills and Bro. Nathan Stafford, of the Methodist Protestant Church, and Rev. J. W. Wellons, Rev. W. S. Long, and Bro. P. R. Harden, of the Christian Church. The committees remained in session two days, examining and discussing points of difference in relation both to doctrinal statements and church government, and concluded that all these differences could, in our opinion, be reconciled without either body's sacrificing any great principle, except its name. Not being able to agree on the name of the organization, we adjourned to meet Oct. 23, 1878.

The committees met again in Graham, Oct. 23, 1878. There were present at this meeting Rev. J. L. Michaux and Rev. A. W. Lineberry, of the Methodist Protestant Church, and Rev. W. S. Long, of the Christian Church. After carefully reviewing the whole subject, and without asking or agreeing to compromise any important principle held dear by our people, we agreed to recommend the following to our respective Conferences:

"*Whereas*, We, W. S. Long, of the Christian Church, and A. W. Lineberry and J. L. Michaux, of the Methodist Protestant Church, by virtue of our appointment as a committee of union between the two bodies named, have this day met and conferred freely on the subject which has brought us together.

"The result of our conference is, that, while we are not empowered to effect any arrangement of terms, and cannot specify the points on which the two churches differ, we are well satisfied that no insuperable barrier to union exist, and that, so believing, it is our province to recommend such a course as we believe calculated to bring about, in the not distant future, the consummation so much desired.

"The two churches represented in this conference are found to be so nearly alike in their doctrines, discipline and modes of worship, that the distinction between them is scarcely more than in name only, and this interview has developed more and more the yearning desire for an actual oneness of organic union. We interpret this harmoniousness of feeling and sentiment as indicative of the 'good hand of our God upon us' in bringing together these two branches of the Christian family, that each may strengthen the other in the grand mission of spreading Scriptural holiness and bringing men to the Redeemer's Cross.

"And while we cannot see the way by which the union can be effected, believing that it is both desirable and practicable, and that it may be accelerated or delayed according to the bearing of the parties one toward the other, we recommend the following:

"1st. That the interchange of pulpits and fraternal visitations between the two churches be encouraged in all our borders, and all proper means for a better acquaintance be adopted.

"2d. That the members of each of these churches be encouraged to patronize and read the periodical literature of the other, and in like manner to patronize its institutions of learning.

3d. That, as in our opinion this union is not only important and desirable, but is likewise practicable, that we ask our annual Conferences respectively to continue these negotiations, and in every way to encourage the work contemplated.

4th. That the two denominations, if nothing further can in the meanwhile be done, shall unite in the work of compiling and publishing a hymn book to be used in common throughout their borders respectively.

"In concluding this report we urge upon our brethren everywhere the importance of fostering and encouraging these sentiments of union between the two churches named."

W. S. LONG,
J. W. WELLONS, } Committee.

Rev. W. S. Long, from the Committee on Education, submitted the following,

REPORT.

Your Committee on Education ask leave to report:

That we have examined Bros. J. T. Ball, J. A. Jones, and S. B. Klapp, applicants for licensure. These brethren come well recommended by their churches as to their Christian standing, and we feel assured of their piety and zeal for the cause. They did not, however, pass a satisfactory examination in the branches of learning prescribed by our Form of Government. We submit, therefore, their cases to the consideration of Conference.

W. S. LONG,
A. G. ANDERSON,
S. APPLE, } Committee.

The report was adopted.

Rev. A. F. Iseley moved that Conference license Bro. John T. Ball to preach as a probationer. Adopted.

On motion, it was also decided to license Bros. J. A. Jones and S. B. Klapp.

On motion, to-morrow at 12 o'clock was set apart as the time to license these brethren.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted the following which was adopted:

REPORT.

We have endeavored to obtain full reports from all the churches, but have not been able to do so.

We find that in some sections of our Conference there is a lively interest manifested in the Sunday School work; in other sections little or none.

We are happy to say the Sunday School cause is accomplishing a noble work in some parts of our Conference, and we therefore, on account of the great importance of this work, recommend that Conference request each minister to organize a Sabbath School at each of his churches, and wherever else may seem practicable, and give them his personal assistance whenever possible.

We recommend also that our ministers and Sunday School workers attend the county Sunday School Conventions as recommended by the State Convention, and that our schools adopt the International Lesson system wherever possible.

Respectfully submitted,

D. F. JONES, } Committee.
A. F. ISELEY, }

The Committee on Education handed in a supplementary report, which was discussed by Rev. Bros. W. S. Long and J. W. Wellons, after which it was adopted as follows:

REPORT.

Believing that Education is indispensable to our success, and that no enterprise can succeed without the helps arising from the same, we would earnestly recommend that our Conference give more attention to this subject. We are thankful that we have within our reach ample means to procure all the learning that is necessary for the success of our ministry.

We take great pleasure in recommending to your consideration and fostering care the Graham High School, in charge of Rev. D. A. Long and his associates. And we would further say that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is now revived, with a worthy President and a full corps of professors, to graduate all who desire a full course of study in the higher branches of learning.

SOLOMON APPLE, } Committee.
A. G. ANDERSON, }

On motion, Rev. A. G. Anderson was excused from further attendance upon this session.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. M. L. Hurley.

FIFTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, November 20, 1878.

Conference convened, the President in the chair. Religious exercises by Rev. W. S. Long.

The proceedings of yesterday were read, and after some corrections, were approved.

The committee appointed to district the Conference reported the following, which was adopted:

REPORT.

We, your committee, have grouped the churches of the Conference into districts as follows:

No. 1—Pope's Chapel, Oak Level, Good Hope, Liberty Hill.

No. 2—Mt. Auburn, Midway, Reeces, Union (Va).

No. 3—Pleasant Grove (Va.), Mt. Pisgah, Brandon's Chapel, Lebanon, Leesburg.

No. 4—Union (N. C.), Mt. Zion, Bethlehem, Concord.

No. 5—Apple's Chapel, Hines' Chapel, Mt. Bethel, Liberty School House, Salem Chapel, Shallow Ford.

No. 6—New Providence.

No. 7—Damascus, Martha's Chapel, Pleasant Grove (N. C.), New Elam.

No. 8—Wake Chapel, Morrisville, O'Kelly's Chapel, Pleasant Union (Harnett).

No. 9—Hayes' Chapel, Mt. Hermon, Catawba Springs, Pleasant Hill (Johnson).

No. 10—Hanks Chapel, Antioch, Bethel, Pleasant Hill (Chatham).

No. 11—Shallow Well, Moore Union, Zion, Christian Chapel.

J. W. WELLONS,
A. MORING,
A. G. ANDERSON, } Committee.

On motion, the ministerial reports were called for, and the following were handed in: Rev. Bros. A. Apple, H. B. Hayes, J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, W. G. Clements, D. A. Long, C. A. Boon, J. N. Farrell, D. T. Deanes, W. W. Staley, M. L. Hurley, J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Pinnix, S. Apple, D. F. Jones, J. W. Hatch, A. F. Iseley, M. L. Winston.

The Committee on Home Missions handed in their report, which was adopted as follows:

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions, immediately after its appointment by the last session of this body, put in operation a plan for raising missionary funds, and respectfully report that the following churches have paid the amounts annexed: O'Kelly's Chapel, $33; New Elam, $14; Hines' Chapel, $3.45; Liberty Hill, $1.29; Pleasant Hill [Chatham], $1; Pleasant Grove [Va.], $5; Christian Chapel $9.50; Shallow Well, $11.50; Catawba Springs, $15; Hank's Chapel, $12.50; Morrisville, $8.50; Oak Level, $3.75: Hayes' Chapel, $1; Damascus, $25.75; Apple's Chapel, $6.75; Pope's Chapel, $12.25; Bethlehem, 55 cents; Union [N. C.], $22; Wake Chapel, $17; Zion, $5.50.

Total amount collected from Churches,		$209.29
Amount transferred from Home Mission Society,		165.60
Interest on money invested, to Nov. 24, 1878,		19.03
Received by public collection at this Conference,		6.45
		$400.37
Paid, Aug. 23, for printing bonds, &c.,	$7.00	
Amount now in Treasurer's hands		$393.37

The following amounts pledged are still due: Christian Chapel, 50 cents; Catawba Springs, $7; Hayes Chapel, $4; Damascus, $15; Pope's Chapel, $3.25; Union [N. C.], $10; Wake Chapel, $1.25; Zion, $4.25. Total due, $45.25.

The amounts as above given, are the results of bonds running five years, payable annually. These bonds are held by the local agents of the different churches, whose duty it is to get bonds filled, collect the amounts falling due, and forward the same to the Treasurer of Conference at its annual meetings. Though this plan may not have been as yet fully understood, we recommend that it be followed in future, believing it will be successful, if explained and carried forward by the pastors and local agents; for, no doubt, much of the failure this year may be attributed, either to the inactivity of these brethren or to the fact that the plan was not properly understood.

Several calls have been made during the year for preachers at new places; and, judging from what we see and hear, Christian churches might be built up in almost every town and country place where none now exist, if missionaries could be kept in the field. But owing to the small fund now on hand the committee would make no recommendations, further than that for the present, the Treasurer deposit the amount in hand in bank subject to the order of Conference.

W. G. CLEMENTS,
J. W. WELLONS,
P. T. KLAPP,
J. M. MORING,
} Committee.

Rev. W. S. Long, from the Committee of Arrangements, appointed at the last session, reported the following, which was adopted and the same committee continued:

REPORT.

Your committee appointed at the last session of this Conference to arrange for the holding of district and mass meetings within the bounds of this Conference, would report, that we endeavored to perform the duty assigned us and are glad to be able to inform your body that these meetings were in a great measure a success. They would, doubtless, have been much more so if the churches composing the districts had represented themselves more fully in these meetings. We would also attribute a lack of interest in this work to the ministers themselves. Meetings were held at O'Kelly's Chapel, Union, [Alamance county, N. C.,] Pope's Chapel, New Elam, Wake Chapel, and Damascus. The subjects of Education, Religious Literature, Sunday Schools, and Home Missions were presented to the people, and we feel sure that much good has been accomplished, and that a greater interest in behalf of these enterprises has been excited than has ever existed before. More than $200 has been raised for Home Missions, and about the same amount pledged that has not been paid in. We would recommend the Conference to provide for the continuance of these meetings.

W. S. LONG,
W. G. CLEMENTS,
} Committee.

On motion, the rule requiring Conference to adjourn at 12 M., was suspended, and Conference proceeded with its business.

On motion of Bro. W. H. Buntin, the President appointed the following committee to devise a plan to carry into effect the districting of the churches: S. Apple, J. W. Hatch, A. Moring, J. T. Ball, G. W. Pinnix, J. H. Chappell, H. Marshall.

The Committee on Temperance submitted their report, which was discussed by Rev. M. L. Hurley, Bro. W. T. Young, and others, after which it was adopted as follows:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Temperance would report that, so far as they are informed, there has been no great change in the world with reference to this question since your last annual session. Millions of men and women continue to drink intoxicating liquors to their own physical and moral hurt. Every year thousands of wretched victims are buried in drunkards' graves. While these things are lamentably true, it is also true that thousands of philanthropists and Christians are at work endeavoring to save the inebriate, and to prevent the young from contracting the fatal habit of drinking ardent spirits.

We recommend that this body advise the churches connected with it, to maintain a wise and wholesome discipline, so as to discourage and prevent the manufacture, traffic and use of intoxicating beverages. The work must be done by the churches, and every church should be careful of its purity.

Respectfully submitted,

M. L. HURLEY, Chairman.

The Executive Committee submitted their report, which was adopted as follows:

REPORT.

We have had several important matters before us during the year, which have received our careful thought, but we have transacted but little business in our official capacity.

At the General Convention, in the absence of the Secretary, we furnished the members-elect from this Conference with certificates of election, and we also appointed Bro. A. A. Farmer a delegate in the place of Bro. P. R. Harden, who failed to attend, and whose regular alternate was also absent.

The chairman of the committee has been in correspondence with members and ministers in the Episcopal Church, in reference to selling the house of worship at Reece's Chapel, Charlotte county, Va., but we have taken no action, and now submit the matter for the consideration of Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. WELLONS,
W. G. CLEMENTS,
A. MORING,
} Committee.

Rev. M. L. Hurley offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this body endorse the action of the General Convention in the appointment of Rev. J. W. Wellons as an Evangelist, and that we pledge him our prayers, sympathy and hearty cooperation in his work.

The Committee on Church Records offered the following report which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Church Records beg leave to report:

We have carefully examined the records of the following churches, and in form find them correctly kept: Shallow Well, Martha's Chapel, Damascus, Moore Union, Shallow Ford, Zion, Pleasant Hill (Chatham), Christian Chapel, Hank's Chapel. Several churches failed to send their records.

M. L. HURLEY,
W. S. PETTY,
G. W. PINNIX,
} Committee.

Rev. W. S. Long offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That we learn with feelings of profound sorrow that Rev. Thomas J. Fowler, who has long been an earnest, faithful, honored and beloved member of this Conference, died this morning at his home in Orange county, N. C.

Resolved, That we direct our present committee on Memoirs to prepare an appropriate expression of our feelings in regard to his death.

On motion, Rev. W. S. Long was excused from further attendance upon this session whenever he may find it necessary to leave.

The committee appointed to submit a plan by which the districting of the churches could go into effect, reported. On motion, the report was recommitted.

Conference adjourned.

Afternoon Session.

Conference convened, the President in the chair.

The committee appointed to present a plan by which to enter upon the district arrangements, submitted the following which was adopted:

Resolved, That any arrangements that can be made by any district be made immediately, and that all other arrangements shall stand as they have been made, and that during the year the deacons of the churches of the districts be requested to bring the matter before the different districts and make their arrangements by districts, and report to Conference at its next session.

J. W. HATCH,
JNO. H. CHAPPELL,
A. MORING,
JOS. PEARCE,
G. W. PINNIX,
JNO. T. BALL,
} Committee.

On motion of Rev. P. T. Klapp, a committee of three was appointed to devise and publish a plan for raising a fund as recommended by the Finance Committee of the General Convention, with instructions to publish the same in the *Christian Sun*, Rev. P. T. Klapp, Rev. J. W. Hatch, and Bro. J. T. Ball were appointed.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees:

Education—D. A. Long, A. G. Anderson, S. Apple, W. W. Staley, J. W. Holt.

Home Missions—W. G. Clements, John M. Moring, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Hatch, J. H. Fleming.

Religious Literature—W. W. Staley, J. W. Hatch, A. Moring, Peter J. Kernodle, J. T. Ball.

Sunday Schools—D. F. Jones, M. L. Hurley, S. P. Read, S. Edwards, Dr. W. T. Herndon.

Temperance—J. W. Pinnix, J. T. Ball, B. J. Blackley, A. F. Iseley, P. W. Allen.

Executive Committee—J. W. Holt, W. S. Long, W. G. Clements.

Committee of Arrangements for District Meetings—W. G. Clements, C. A. Boon, J. W. Holt.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Wellons, President of Conference, was added to the Executive Committee as chairman.

The Committee on Memoirs offered the following partial

REPORT.

Your committee on Memoirs beg leave to report that our esteemed and beloved brother Stephen I. Ellis, a licentiate and member of this Conference, departed this life December 29, 1877, aged 26 years, 10 months and 5 days. Bro. Ellis was licensed in 1871 to preach the gospel, and continued to exercise his gifts occasion offered as long as his health would permit. He took a lively interest in the work of the church and manifested a willingness to do what he could in the great work of saving souls. But before he had pursued his calling a sufficient length of time to establish himself as a minister, it was apparent to all observers that disease had fastened itself upon him; and although young in years, and still younger in his chosen calling, it was apparent that his work on earth would soon be done. The hollow cough and the emaciated frame indicated most clearly that death had marked him for its victim.

But, thank God! he was ready. When the dark-winged messenger came, he was ready to enter into rest. He died in much peace, in the full and blissful hope of life everlasting in a better world. Thus has passed away one of the workers of this Conference, an earnest Christian, a zealous laborer.

SOLOMON APPLE,
A. F. ISELEY,
H. MARSHALL,
} Committee.

The same committee reported the following series of resolutions in respect to the late Rev. T. J. Fowler, which, after touching remarks from Rev. Solomon Apple, Rev. J. W. Wellons, Rev. W. S. Long and others, was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst, our venerable and highly-esteemed brother, Rev. Thomas J. Fowler, and

Whereas, It is eminently proper for this Conference to give expression the profound sorrow it feels on account of his death, therefore,

Resolved, That we hear with the deepest grief of the death of our beloved brother and colaborer, Rev. T. J. Fowler, who breathed his last this morning at 3 o'clock, in the 78th year of his age.

Resolved, That in the death of this venerable man of God, the Christian Church has lost one of its ablest and most faithful ministers, one who spent his long and active life in earnest advocacy of the cause of Christ and the principles of the Christian Church.

Resolved, That while we are deeply sensible of the great loss the Church has sustained in Brother Fowler's death, and while as individuals we feel greatly afflicted at his removal from among us, yet we bow in humble submission to the Divine will, believing that our loss is our departed brother's eternal gain, and that he has entered into the rest of the saints.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family of the deceased, and that they be spread upon the minutes of this Conference.

On motion, the committee appointed at the last session of this body to meet a like committee from the Methodist Protestant Conference of North Carolina, was continued with instructions to cultivate fraternal intercourse with that body.

The President proceeded to present Bros. J. A. Jones, S. B. Klapp and J. T. Ball with their credentials as Licentiates in the Christian Church.

On motion of Rev. M. L. Hurley, Conference adjourned to meet with the church at Christian Chapel, Chatham county, N. C., on Friday before the third Sunday in November, 1879.

Religious exercises by Rev. J. W. Holt. Benediction by the President.

J. W. WELLONS, PRESIDENT.

J. W. HOLT, *Secretary*.

P. J. KERNODLE, *Assistant Secretary*.

Ministerial Reports.

S. Apple—Been engaged in secular business, preached occasionally and superintended a Sabbath School.

J. W. Wellons—Had charge of Pleasant Grove, Va., and Mt. Auburn, received fifty members.

H. B. Hayes—Had no pastoral charge.

C. A. Boon—Was pastor of Martha's Chapel.

W. G. Clements—Had the pastoral charge of four churches, and attended the quarterly meetings of two others; have organized one church. Received sixty members.

J. N. Farrell—Had no charge.

D. A. Long—Was pastor of New Providence and Principal of Graham High School.

W. W. Staley—Have taught in Graham High School, preached, and engaged in Sunday School work.

M. L. Hurley—Had the pastoral charge of Union, Va., and Lebanon, preached at several other points, attended several protracted meetings.

A. F. Iseley—Had charge of Pleasant Hill (Chatham), preached monthly at Shallow Ford and Bethlehem.

P. T. Klapp—Had charge of three churches, had eighty-five converts, baptized forty-three persons, and preached in all seventy-eight sermons.

J. W. Holt—Had the pastoral charge of Pope's Chapel, Oak Level, Good Hope and Liberty Hill, preached ninety-four sermons, baptized eight persons, received twelve into the church, married one couple, held protracted meetings at each of my churches.

D. T. Deanes—Had charge of church at Liberty School House.

M. L. Winston—Preached at Smith Creek School House, expect soon to organize a church there.

J. W. Hatch—Had charge of Antioch and Moore Union, held protracted meetings at each of my churches, and attended Deep River Conference as Fraternal Messenger.

D. F. Jones—Had pastoral charge of two churches and preached at other points.

J. W. Pinnix—Was the pastor of Salem Chapel, Mt. Bethel and Mt. Pisgah, and held protracted meetings at each.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	No. of members reported last session.	Received since.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	No. of present membership.	Sunday Schools.	Connected with Sunday Schools.	Amount paid the Pastor.	Paid for Education.	For other purposes.	Total amount paid.	Value of church property.
O'Kelly's Chapel,	W. G. Clements,	125	3	10	1		115	1	78	115 00		30 00	145 00	300 00
New Elam,	W. G. Clements,	101	10	1		3	107	1	71	32 93		19 85	52 78	600 00
Hines' Chapel,	A. G. Anderson,	81	17	1	1	1	86	1	55	36 00		3 60	39 60	400 00
Mt. Bethel,	J. W. Pinnix,	46	9	1	1		53			13 50			13 50	400 00
Liberty Hill,	J. W. Holt,	72	3	2		2	79			48 00		2 50	50 50	
Pleasant Hill, (Chat.),	D. F. Jones,	105	11	1			115	1	56	36 70		18 60	55 30	300 00
Pleasant Grove, (Va.),	J. W. Wellons,	96	13	1			107	1	47	200 00		3 40	203 40	2000 00
Concord,	A. G. Anderson,	53				1	52							400 00
Christian Chapel,	P. T. Klapp,	188	14	4	5	4	189	1	135	100 00		60 00		800 00
Shallow Well,	P. T. Klapp,	130	28				158	1	180	67 75	2 35	136 00	206 10	1600 00
Shallow Ford,	D. F. Jones,	91	7	2	3		93	1	83	31 94			31 94	400 00
Mt. Pisgah,	J. W. Pinnix,	28					28			17 00		80	17 80	
Pleasant Union,		50												
Moore Union,	J. W. Hatch,	44	3	4	1		33	1	21					300 00
New Providence,	D. A. Long,	292	102	2	3		389	1	50	200 00			200 00	3000 00
Catawba Springs,	W. G. Clements,	95		4			91	1	42	60 00		20 00	80 00	300 00
Mt. Auburn,	J. W. Wellons,	110	38	1	2		145	2	105	130 00		15 00	145 00	750 00
Union, (Va.),	M. L. Hurley,	159	38		2	1	194			100 00	20 00		120 00	1000 00
Antioch,	J. W. Hatch,	74	6	9		1	69	1	28					300 00
Hanks Chapel,	W. S. Long,	156	21	2	2		173	1	54	150 00		2 50	152 50	400 00
Pleasant Hill, (John'n),	W. H. Franks,	67	4	1	1		69			25 00			25 00	400 00
Morrisville,	W. G. Clements,	15	4				19			30 00		16 00	46 00	500 00
Oak Level,	J. W. Holt,	74	1	1		4	63	1	20	71 50		7 00	78 50	1000 00

Hayes' Chapel,	W. G. Clements,	81	31	1	2		108	1	165	43 50		30 00	73 50	500 00	
Mt. Zion,		27													
Damascus,	W. S. Long,	104		1	1		86	1	74	75 80			75 80	500 00	
Lebanon,	M. L. Hurley,	66													
Apple's Chapel,	A. G. Anderson,	188	4				192			39 50			39 50	300 00	
Good Hope,	J. W. Holt,	69	1				59	1	50	46 00		11 05	57 05	500 00	
Pope's Chapel,	J. W. Holt,	200	7	3	1		203	1	77	100 00	1 71		101 71	1500 00	
Bethlehem,	D. F. Jones,	149	11				152	1	46	40 00	10 00	800 00	850 00	900 00	
Salem Chapel,	J. W. Pinnix,	125	10	2			133	1	89					600 00	
Martha's Chapel,	C. A. Boon,	32	6	2	3		33	1	41	6 95			6 95	500 00	
Union, (N. C.),	W. S. Long,	271	2	3	2		268	1	41	111 95		32 00	143 95	1000 00	
Wake Chapel,	W. G. Clements,	167	6	4	2	2	165	1	26	85 00		18 00	103 00	500 00	
Bethel,		30													
Reece's Chapel,		30													
Pleasant Grove, (N. C.),		25													
Liberty School House,	D. T. Deanes,	41	1			1	40								
Zion,	P. T. Klapp,	151	3	6	1		151	1	147	52 37		100 00	152 37	600 00	
Mt. Hermon,							13								
		4008	391	68	33	20	3970	25	1613	2054 49	34 06	1326 30	2473 38	22550 00	

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

Eastern Virginia Christian Conference.

LIBERTY SPRING, Nansemond county, Va., }
Friday, March 29th, 1878. }

According to previous appointment, the tenth annual session of the Sunday School Convention of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference, met here to-day, and in connection with it the District Meeting assembled, the programmes of both bodies being blended into one.

The President of the last session of the Convention, Rev. J. T. Whitley, conducted the introductory religious exercises with the assistance of other ministers.

The following officers were present:

PRESIDENT—Rev. J. T. Whitley.

VICE PRESIDENT—Rev. E. W. Beale.

SECRETARY—R. H. Rawles.

TREASURER—T. J. Kilby.

The following ministers and delegates were enrolled:

Ministers—C. A. Apple, J. P. Barrett, E. W. Beale, C. J. Ralston, R. C. Tuck and J. T. Whitley.

Delegates—Antioch—A. M. Eley, T. J. Clements.

Bethlehem—R. H. Powell.

Berea (Nansemond Co.,)—T. R. Gaskins.

Cypress—Josiah Wilkins, Claude Riddick, J. H. Brinkley.

Eure's Cross Roads—K. R. Carter, H. W. Parker.

Hebron—Allen Daughtrey.

Holy Neck—John Oberry, P. H. Lee, John Norfleet.

Liberty Spring—J. T. Rawls, J. L. Pearce, B. F. Rogers.

Mt. Carmel—Mills Britt, Geo. M. D. Watkins.
Oakland—S. J. Saunders, W. R. Rodgers.
Spring Hill—H. T. West.
Union—R. W. Gate, R. A. Ricks.
Holland's—R. R. Duke, R. L. Holland, J. L. Holland.
Suffolk—R. H. Rawles.

The President announced as the next business in order, the election of officers, which was then taken up with the following result:

PRESIDENT—Rev. J. T. Whitley.
VICE PRESIDENT—Rev. E. W. Beale.

(The Secretary and Treasurer hold their offices for life, unless they resign or are removed by special order of the Convention.)

On motion of Bro. John Oberry, the President appointed the following members to fill vacancies in the Executive Council: Bros. J. R. Baker, F. W. Tatem and D. B. Dunbar. The President and Secretary of the Convention are *ex officio* members of the Council.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, Bros. H. T. West, Geo. M. D. Watkins and R. W. Gate were appointed a Committee on Finance.

Bro. T. J. Kilby, Treasurer, by permission, requested the representatives of the various schools to pay to him the annual dues promptly, so that he might be enabled to make his report at the proper time.

Rev. J. T. Whitley then delivered the Introductory Address, on "The Historical Development of the Sunday School Idea."

The Convention then took a recess for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2:30 P. M., the Convention assembled and was called to order by the President, who introduced Rev. C. A. Apple. This brother proceeded to deliver an address on "Our Denominational Literature," which was replete with interest from beginning to end.

At the conclusion of the address subscriptions to the *Christian Sun* were received.

Reports from the following schools were then read, and many short addresses were delivered by the delegates present: Antioch, Bethlehem, Berea (Nansemond county), Cypress, Damascus, Eure's Cross Roads, Holy Neck, Ivor, Johnson's Grove, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Oakland, Providence, Sharon, Spring Hill, Suffolk, Union, Holland's and Sunnyside.

The Convention then adjourned until 10 o'clock to morrow.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, March 30, 1878.

The Convention assembled at 10:30 o'clock A. M., and was called to order by the President, who conducted brief religious exercises, and then announced that the Convention was ready for business. The roll was called and a quorum found to be present.

On motion of Rev. C. A. Apple, the time and place of the next meeting were referred to the Executive Council.

The report from Eure's Cross Roads was then read and a short address delivered by the superintendent.

Superintendent J. T. Harris, of Sunnyside, came and in took his seat. He also made an interesting statement in regard to the work that had been accomplished at that place.

The hour for discussion having arrived, the President introduced Rev. E. W. Beale, who proceeded to deliver an address on "Conversion and Christian Culture, the Object of all Sunday School Work."

Reports from local agents were then called for and heard.

The choir then sang, "Only an armor bearer," after which the President introduced as the next speaker Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, who discussed the subject: "Our Conference Mission Work."

A hymn was then sung, after which an address was delivered by Rev. J. T. Whitley on "Education as it Affects the Prosperity of Our Conference."

The Convention then adjourned until 2.30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention assembled at 2:30 P. M., and was opened with religious exercises.

The report of the Finance Committee was read and received.

The President then introduced Rev. C. A. Apple, who discussed in an able manner the subject: "Some Difficulties of Country Schools, and How to Remove them."

The Convention was next addressed by Rev. C. J. Ralston, the pastor at Liberty Spring, on "The Duty of the Church to the Sunday School."

The President then stated that Rev. J. N. Manning, who had been appointed to discuss "The Duty of Parents to the Sunday School," was unavoidably absent on account of serious illness in his family, and that therefore there would be no regular discussion of this subject. Brother H. H. Butler, however, spoke on that topic.

Rev. J. Pressley Barrett offered the following resolutions of thanks, which were adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to the church at Liberty Spring and the people of the community, for the hospitality so liberally extended to members and visitors on this occasion.

Resolved, That our thanks are also tendered to the authorities of the Jackson Narrow Guage Railroad, for courtesies of free travel.

Closing exercises were then conducted by the President; Rev. C. A. Apple led in prayer, the benediction was pronounced, and the body adjourned, to meet at such time and place as may be fixed upon by the Executive Council.

J. T. WHITLEY, PRESIDENT.

R. H. RAWLES, *Secretary*.

Ministerial Directory.

ELDERS.

Albright, H. A.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Allen, Chastien.....Oxford, N. C.
Allen, P. W.....Oxford, N. C.
Anderson, A. G. Anderson's Store, N.C.
Apple, Alfred Red Bank, Va.
Apple, Solomon.....Milton, N. C.
Ausley, J. B.....Jonesborough, N. C.
Barrett, S. S.....Norfolk, Va.
Barrett, M. B.....Ivor, Va.
Barrett, J. Pressley.....Suffolk, Va.
Beale, E. W Suffolk, Va.
Boon, C. A.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Brown, Wm. R.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Brady, W. G.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Burrow, John.....Wedowee, Ala.
Clements, W. G.....Morrisville, N. C.
Cofield, Lewis.....Wedowee, Ala.
Craven, Wm. M....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Deanes, D. T.....Summerfield, N. C.
Elder, J. D.....Milltown, Ala.
Elder, T. H.....Milltown, Ala.
Farrell, John N.....Happy Home, N. C.
Franks, Wm. H.....Raleigh, N. C.
Greggs, C. W.....Wedowee, Ala.
Hatch, John W.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Hayes, H. B.....Raleigh, N. C.
Holland, R. H.....Carrsville, Va.
Holt, J. W.....Franklinton, N. C.
Hurley, M. L.....Red Bank, Va.
Hurst, G. M.....Milnor, Ala.
Jones, D. F.....Company Shops, N. C.
Kitchen, John T.....Franklin, Va.
Klapp, Peter T.....Sanford, N. C.
Lawrence, J. S.....Browers' Mills, N. C.
Lawrence, W. W..Browers' Mills, N. C.
Long, Wm. S.....Graham, N. C.
Long, D. A.....Graham, N. C.
Manning, J. N.....Portsmouth, Va.
Neese, J. L.....Roanoke, Ala.
Nelson, A. S.....Carter's Mills, N. C.
Pinnix, J. W. .Anderson's Store, N. C.
Rawls, Robert.....Ivor, Va.
Ralston, C. J.....Nurneysville, Va.
Smith, Jubilee.....Richland, Ga.
Sorrell, M. J.....West Point, Ga.
Staley, W. W.....Graham, N. C.
Tinnen, R. G.....Cedar Grove, N. C.
Tuck, R. C.....Norfolk, Va.
Walker, Wm. T..Brown's Summit, N. C.
Wellons, J. W.....Franklinton, N. C.
Whitley, J. T.....Suffolk, Va

LIENTIATES.

Butler, H. H.....Cross Canals, N. C.
Ball, J. T.....Raleigh, N. C.
Elder, Thomas H.....Milltown, Ala
Hamilton, C. J.....Roanoke, Ala.
Humble, P. P.....Buffalo Ford, N. C.
Iseley, A. F.....Shallow Ford, N. C.
Jones, J. A.....Morrisville, N. C.
Klapp, S. B Egypt, N. C.
Manning, W. J.....Milltown, Ala.
McLeod, D. B.....Troy, N. C.
Newman, J. U.,.....Suffolk, Va.
Scott, Jno. A....Company Shops, N. C.
Way, S. H.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Williams, John C.....Edom Va.
Winston, M. L.....Mt. Energy, N. C
Wheeler, J.....Louisia, Ala.

Southern Convention of Congregational Christian Churches,

ANNUAL

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FOR

1879.

EDITED BY

REV. J. PRESSLEY BARRETT.

VOLUME IX.

SUFFOLK, VA:

PRINTED AT THE CHRISTIAN SUN BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.

1879.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

For the information of such readers of this publication as may not be familiar with the history, principles and aims of the Christian Church, this introductory note is inserted.

The religious body represented in this ANNUAL originated as follows: At the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Baltimore, November 1st, 1792, Rev. Jas. O'Kelly, a prominent, influential and highly-useful member, withdrew from that body, because of an irreconcilable difference of opinion between himself and the majority, respecting the autocratic power of the Bishops. He was accompanied in his withdrawal by a score or more of preachers, and the new movement was soon joined by about a thousand laymen. Mr. O'Kelly and his coadjutors at first adopted the name "Republican Methodist," but in 1794 discarded that title, and declared that thenceforth "Christian" alone should be accepted as their name. Although occasional General Meetings were held, in an informal manner, for consultation, from the very first, yet no regular Conference was organized until 1818, when the Eastern Virginia Conference was formed at Holy Neck Church, Nansemond county, Virginia. In 1825 the North Carolina and Virginia Conference was organized. On the 16th of October, 1825, James O'Kelly died in Chatham county, North Carolina, aged 92 years. On the 17 of February, 1844, Rev. Daniel W. Kerr issued, at Hillsboro, N. C., the first number of the "*Christian Sun*," a paper which has been recognized ever since as the organ of the Church. In April, 1847, the "Southern Christian Association" was organized of representatives of the Conferences; and this body was superseded by the "Southern Christian Convention" in 1856. The civil war of 1861–'65 produced a most disastrous effect upon the Church, paralyzing for the time nearly all its activities. In 1864 the Deep River Conference was formed in central North Carolina; and at some time previous to the war the Georgia and Alabama Conference was organized. In May, 1866, as the Churches were just emerging from the wreck of the war, the "Southern Christian Convention," which had been prevented from holding its regular session in 1862, met at Mt. Auburn, Warren county, North Carolina, and laid plans for future work. At this meeting a Declaration of Principles, a Form of Government, and a Directory for Worship were

adopted, and the name of the body was changed to "The General Convention of the Christian Church." In 1870 a hymn-book was published for the use of the Church. On the 16th of February, 1877, Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., the most prominent and widely-known minister in the Church, died at his home in Suffolk, Virginia. He had long been President of the General Convention, Editor of the "*Christian Sun*," and in many respects the recognized leader of the Church. The Christian Church now has one General Convention, five Annual Conferences, sixty-seven ministers, and about ten thousand private members.

While we have never been an anti-missionary people, it was not until recent years that we have attempted to introduce a system of Missionary Work. In 1875–6, there seemed to be a general interest awakened in this direction. Most of our Conferences now are making systematic missionary efforts, and the prospects are most encouraging, bidding fair to accomplish a grand work in planting the Cross in destitute places, and in spreading the glorious, heaven-born principles of our beloved Church among the people, whereby we hope to do our part in counteracting the evil influences of sectarianism.

Among the cardinal principles of the Church are these: Christ is the only Head of the Church; the name "Christian" is the proper appellation of Christ's followers; the Bible is a sufficient rule of faith and practice; Christian Character is the only proper test of Church fellowship; the right of Private Judgment in matters of religion, is inalienable, and should be freely yielded to all.

The only questions addressed to a person who applies for membership in a Christian Church, are these: "Have you sincerely and heartily repented of all your sins?" "Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world?" "Is it your purpose, through grace, to live a godly life?" Each member is permitted to decide for himself with reference to baptism and other matters of doctrine not essential to the very structure of Christianity.

The Christian Church aims, in common with other religious bodies, to spread the Gospel, and to secure, to the fullest possible extent, the conversion of the world to Christ. Its great *distinctive* mission, however, is to do everything in its power to expel sectarianism from among the people of God, to promote the liberty of the human conscience in matters of religion, to cause minor theological and ecclesiastical doctrines to be remanded to the sphere of individual judgment, and to effect the final union of all true Christians, upon the basis of a common belief in the essential doctrines of Christianity.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

General Convention

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION,

HELD AT

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA, JULY 18, 19, 1879.

SUFFOLK, NANSEMOND COUNTY, VA.,
Friday, July 18th, 1879.

THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH met in extraordinary session in the Christian Church at this place on Friday, July 18th, at 11 o'clock. A. M., and was called to order by the President, Rev. W. S. Long, by whom appropriate religious services were conducted.

The roll of Conferences was then called and following delegates were present:

North Carolina and Virginia Conference.—Ministers: W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons, W. G. Clements, D. A. Long.

Layman: Hon. J. M. Moring.

Eastern Virginia Conference.—Ministers: J. N. Manning, M. B. Barrett, E. W. Beale, J. T. Kitchen.

Laymen: Col. Alex. Savage, Maj. I. W. Duck, H. T. West.

Virginia Valley Conference—Minister: Rev. W. T. Walker.

Deep River Valley Conference.—Not represented.

Georgia and Alabama Conference.—Not represented.

The office of Standing Secretary being vacant, on motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, Prof. P. J. Kernodle was elected Standing Secretary of the General Convention.

On motion, Rev. O. F. Flippo of the Baptist Church, Rev. J. C. Martin and Rev. S. S. Lambeth of the M. E. Church, South, and Rev. J. P. Barrett and Rev. C. J. Ralston of the Christian Church, being present, were invited to seats as deliberative members of the Convention.

Rev. W. T. Walker, the pastor of the Suffolk Christian Church, stated that on behalf of the church, he desired to extend a warm welcome to all the members of the Convention, and to all visiting brethren. He assured the brethren that they would be kindly received, and would share the hospitalities of the good people of Suffolk.

Rev. D. A. Long responded on behalf of the Convention in an appropriate manner, referring to the past history of the church, and calling to mind the sacred reminiscences that cling around her.

On motion of Rev. W. T. Walker, an election to fill vacances, occurring on the Committee of Revision, was held, which resulted in the choice of Revs. E. W. Beale and M. B. Barrett.

On motion of Hon. J. M. Moring, 11 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow, was made the hour for the President to deliver the introductory address before the Convention.

On motion, the Convention adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

Afternoon Session.

The Convention met at 3 o'clock.

On motion of Hon. J. M. Moring, Rev. D. A. Long was added to the Committee on Revision.

On motion, the President appointed Revs. W. T. Walker, E. W. Beale and M. B. Barrett, a Committee on Religious Exercises.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported as follows: Rev. W. S. Long to preach in the Christian Church, Sunday at 11 o'clock, and Rev. D. A. Long to preach in the M. E. Church at the same hour, also, Hon J. M. Moring to deliver an address on Home Missions at Holy Neck Christian Church; for Sunday at 11 o'clock, A. M., Rev. W. G. Clements to preach in the Christian Church, Rev. W. S. Long in the M. E. Church, and Rev. D. A. Long in the Baptist Church. That addresses before the Sunday School would be delivered by Revs. D. A. Long and W. G. Clements at the Christian Church Sunday morning.

On motion, Convention adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock A. M., to-morrow, with prayer.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, July 19, 1879.

The Convention met and was called to order by the President, who conducted religious exercises, prayer by Rev. J. P. Barrett. The roll was called, and the proceedings of yesterday's session were read and approved.

On motion, Revs. R. H. Holland and J. U. Newman of the Christian Church, and Rev. J. A. Johnson of the Baptist Church, being present, were invited to seats as deliberative members of the body.

The hour for the special order having arrived, Rev. J. N. Manning was called to the Chair, who led the Convention and Congregation in devotional exercises, after which the President Rev. W. S. Long, delivered an able and highly instructive address before the Convention.

After the address business was resumed. Rev. J. W. Wellons was called to the Chair and the Committee on Revision submitted the following report through Rev. W. S. Long:

REPORT:

Your Committee on Revision, after a careful consideration of the matter referred to them, are of opinion that no change should be made in the Declaration of Principles and Form of Government. No material change in the Declaration of Principles was ever contemplated. Some brethren have, however, desired some change of a minor character to be made in the Declarations of Principles. We have also found that some have expressed a wish for some change in the Form of Government, but no one appears to be of sufficient importance to justify a revision of the work.

J. N. MANNING,
W. S. LONG,
M. B. BARRETT,
J. W. WELLONS,
D. A. LONG,
E. W. BEALE,
W. T. WALKER,
Committee.

The report was discussed by Revs. W. S. Long, J. N. Manning, D. A. Long, Hon. J. M. Moring, Maj. I. W. Duck.

Pending the discussion, a recess was taken till 3 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met, the President in the Chair.

The question on the adoption of the report was resumed. The motion to adopt prevailed.

On motion of Rev. W. T. Walker, Rev. D. A. Long and

Hon. J. M. Moring were elected to fill vacances in the Committee on Publications.

On motion, Rev. R. H. Jones, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was invited to a seat as a deliberative member.

Rev. W. T. Walker offered the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are due and are hereby tendered Rev. W. S. Long, for the very able and instructive address delivered by him before this body, and that he be requested to furnish the Secretary a copy of the same for publication.

[The address will be found at the end of these minutes.]

On motion, Hon. J. M. Moring, and Revs. W. G. Clements and J. T. Kitchen were appointed a committee to petition the Legislature of North Carolina to incorporate the General Convention of the Christian Church.

The Committee on Publications submitted the following report, which, after some discussion, was adopted:

REPORT:

1. Your Committee on Publications would recommend that the Hymn Book for Public and Private Worship in the Christian Church, selected and arranged by Rev. W. B. Wellons, D. D., in 1870, together with the Declaration of Principles, Form of Government and Directory for Worship, adopted by the Christian Church, be republished for the denomination without any change.

2. That 1000 copies of the book be published as soon as the money can be obtained.

3. That the Treasurer be directed to pay all funds collected for the publication of said book over to the Committee on Publications as they may draw their warrants for the same.

J. N. MANNING,
J. M. MORING,
W. G. CLEMENTS.
D. A. LONG,
Committee.

On motion, the church at Morrisville, N. C., was selected for the meeting of the next regular session of the Convention.

Rev. D. A. Long offered the following resolutions which were adopted:

Resolved, 1. That the thanks of this Convention are due to the citizens of Suffolk for their kind hospitalities during the session of this Convention.

2. Also to the Rail Roads for their usual courtesies.

On motion, Rev. J. W. Wellons, the Evangelist of the Convention, was requested to make a statement of his labors to this body, which he did and was listened to by the Convention with pleasure.

Rev. D. A. Long offered the following resolution which was adopted :

Resolved, That all the pastors in the local Conferences within the bounds of the Convention be requested to take up a collection during the month of October next for the publication of the Hymn Book, Declaration of Principles, Form of Government and Directory for Worship in the Christian Church.

On motion, the Proceedings of the Convention, with the address of the President, were ordered to be published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL, and that the Board of Publication draw upon the Treasurer for proportional amount for expenses of the same.

The Convention then adjourned to meet with the Christian Church at Morrisville, N. C., on Friday before the 1st Sunday in May, 1882, with religious exercises and benediction by the President.

W. S. LONG, PRESIDENT.

P. J. KERNODLE, *Secretary*.

E. W. BEALE, *Assistant Secretary*.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY REV. W. S. LONG BEFORE THE GENERAL CHRISTIAN CONVENTION SUFFOLK, VA., JULY 18, 1879.

Brethren of the General Convention: Every age has its special mission, a labor peculiarly adapted to and imperatively binding upon itself. That labor has in general been consonant with the wants and calls of men, hence changes and new eras have been occasionally dawning upon our world in all past time. The demands and labor of patriarchal days were diverse from those of the prophets, the prophets from the apostles, and so on; and when the far-reaching, all-proselyting spirit of catholicism was swaying a lordly sceptre over the land, when darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people; there were a few who were heaven sent upon a *special* mission, had a *special* task assigned them which was to lead oppressed, enslaved, and groaning Israel from the dense wilderness of superstitious corruption, and from under the blasphemously usurped authority of St. Peter's successors, to the liberty of the sons of God, and to the spiritual worship of the Most High, and because Melancthon, Luther, Calvin, Wesley and others were successful in *their* mission, we are not to suppose that there was no additional light in reserve for a later day, no special labor for a future age.

As we turn our attention to the religious aspect of this country at the commencement of the present century, we find that a reform was greatly needed and the people of God were calling loudly for it.

The great facilities which this country proffered to the liberty-loving, had drawn to her shores a heterogeneus mass, as vastly dissimilar in mind and manners as in physiognomy. The manners, customs, and sects with their different names and creeds, of all the religious parties of the Old World were here introduced, and soon commenced hostilities, each striving for the ascendency. During the predominance of this sectarian spirit, there were some who caught the spirit of persecution that prevailed in the east and endeavored to change the *mind* of men by torturing their *bodies*. Things continued to move on in this way until the number of the names and creeds of the different sects could be known only by ascertaining the number of aspiring and designing men. No sect had much fellowship for others, and still all claimed to be Christians, and if any member differed a little in matters of belief from his sect, the matter was considered of sufficient importance to justify excommunication.

What a mangled and distorted appearance did the body of Christ present! If angels ever weep, it is, doubtless, when brethren are thus arrayed against each other.

But what could be done to quiet schisms, harmonize and unite belligerent influences, and restore peace to the Church of God? In the providence of God a way was opened for an humble effort to be made in this direction. At the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Baltimore, November 1st, 1792, Rev. James O'Kelly, a prominent, influential and highly-useful member, withdrew from that body, because of an irreconcilable difference of opinion between himself and the majority, respecting the autocratic power of the Bishops—nothing else. He was accompanied in his withdrawal by a score or more of preachers, and the new movement was soon joined by

about a thousand laymen. Mr. O'Kelly and his coadjutors at first adopted the name "Republican Methodists," but in 1794 discarded that title, and declared that thenceforth "Christian" alone should be accepted as their name. The appellation given by inspiration was taken, and it gave satisfaction to all. All professed to be Christians—nothing more—nothing less. Nothing more is required by the Great Head of the church—nothing less will do. This name is significant of the character all profess to wear, and is an embodiment of all that is good in all other titles. The principles adopted and adhered to by our organization are as sure to stand, as it is that truth will stand. The sentiments—that Christian character is the true ground of Christian fellowship; that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the true and sufficient rule of faith and practice; that the right of Private Judgment, and the liberty of conscience in all matters wherein real Christians differ, should be accorded to all—are as sure to prevail, as the stone cut out of the mountain without hands is to become a great mountain, and fill the whole earth. Of this there is no more doubt, in my own mind, than there is of my own existence. Whether we will prove worthy of establishing these great principles permanently in the Christian world; or whether we fail in our attempt and others more worthy, more faithful than ourselves, will be the God-honored apostles of his truth, and the instruments of its establishment, are questions not so readily solved in our mind. The manner in which the question shall be answered, in the future history of the Church, is, under the blessing of Almighty God, for us to decide. The course pursued by us, in our future labors in the church and world, must determine the question.

There are some things in our practice so far below the position we have taken that we have continued to suffer material loss. I beg leave to mention these separately:

1. *The support of the ministry.* This duty has been sadly neglected; and by reason of this neglect we have sustained great loss. There is, however, a waking up on this subject. Many noble-hearted brethren and sisters are doing much in this respect for the cause of their Master. Though much has been done, much remains to be done. We must seek to arouse our brethren in all our conferences to a proper sense of the importance of this vital interest. Tell them God's plain truth on the subject. We must make a powerful effort to regain what we have already lost in this relation.

2. *Our practice in relation to educating our ministers.* Some have contended that ministers stand in no special need of education; and such therefore make no special effort to remedy this evil among us. Others have presented objections to an educated ministry. Now, as these puerile objections have been answered a thousand times I shall not notice them here, but would remind you of the necessity there is upon us in connection with this matter. We all believe that God calls His laborers and gives them grace to do His work, but the mental training He leaves with His church and themselves. This He does not give them nor will He ever give it. He has never done for us, or for our race, anything that we can do for ourselves, nor will He ever do it. When we have, however, gone to the end of our poor capability He has come in and done for us and for our race all that was needed, but no more. This He will ever do. If we fail to do what we can in any department of Christian labor He will hold us accountable for neglecting our duty. We can educate our ministers and we must do this. The ministerial calling is among the most honorable, responsible, and at the same time extensive callings ever occupied by man. *Honorable*, because those who walk in it, are ambassadors of the King of Heaven. *Responsible*, because they seek a reconciliation between man and his Maker,—to train men for heaven. *Extensive*, because it embraces all men, in all departments of life, the rich, the poor, the high, the low, the wise, the unwise. The language of the commission is "Go preach the gospel to every

creature,—Go teach all nations."

Here is a field large enough for the display of the most gigantic intellect. Here logic may find its fitness; and oratory room for its grandest display—its most thrilling accents,—its loftiest notes. To warn, to call, to persuade, to excite men to holiness of heart; and to soothe, to comfort the troubled mind, is the duty of a minister. Surely, there is no calling embracing a wider range of thought. It calls for men not only possessing large souls, filled with the love of Christ; but also possessing strong minds, well trained—well cultivated who can strip the monster vice of all his borrowed charms and expose to view his native deformity—who can take hold of men's thoughts and turn them from the fascinating and delusive charms of this world to behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.

We have done something in this direction, but not enough to give us and our cause that prominence,—that position of usefulness that they demand. We need a school for the special training of our ministers. This we can have by concentrating our strength. It can be done. We possess sufficient wealth to accomplish the work, if we will act in *concert*. It *must* be done, or we must continue to labor under the same embarrassment, that has hindered and still continues to hinder our progress. We have noble young men among us. Young men who would shine as stars of the first magnitude in the moral heavens, if they could but receive the proper training. We must educate them, or in a measure lose their aid in the heaven-born work of preparing men for eternity. We are becoming aroused to the importance of missions. Every Conference has taken hold of the work, and, if our energies do not abate, will soon see grand results. New fields will be opened, and an impetus given our cause never before realized.

Our publishing interests demand our constant attention. All departments of our work depend on this, and surely no one who loves our cause will permit it to languish. I long to see the day when our practice will equal our religious stand: for then will it be more clearly seen that the Christian Church has entwined around its temples, a wreath of priceless jewels,—God's own everlasting truth.

There is another subject that has engaged our attention for a long time. I refer to the subject of Christian Union. Much has been written by our brethren in order to arrest public attention and call out in this direction the energies of the people of God. Great good has been accomplished. Many leading men of other denominations have become aroused on this subject and are laboring to promote the spirit of brotherly love between the followers of our Saviour.

Here let me remind you brethren, *that a spirit of devotion is the strength of Christian Union.* Acting upon this impressive aphorism, brethren of the different religious denominations may place themselves before the throne of that great Being of whom it is said, with equal simplicity and sublimity, "God is love;" that there—where the din of controversy is unheard, the destructions of party are unseen, and the prejudices of sectarianism are unfelt—there, where brethren do not repudiate their denominational peculiarities so much as rise above them—there, where they step over the narrow circles of their sectional divisions into the amplitude of the universal Church they feel, as well as believe, that they are all one in Christ. There is a power in prayer, which, so far from having been exhausted, the Church of God has yet scarcely tried. If we ever see that union after which we are now seeking, it will be far less by volumes of elaborate exposition, or of logical controversy, than by the power of united believing supplication. Sectarianism cannot live in the immediate vicinity of the throne of grace; and all its earthkindled, base, and culinary flames will expire when exposed to the rays of the excellent glory.

Hence the necessity, if we would promote this spirit of Union of endeavoring to raise the faith, the holiness, the spirituality, the heavenly mindedness of the people

of God. All attempts apart from this will be unavailing. The different denominations of Christians may endeavor to tie themselves together by laws and rules framed with ever so much wisdom; but in the absence of the growing piety of the different sections of the Church of Christ, the spirit of sectarianism will burst asunder all such ligaments with as much ease as Sampson did the withes and the cords which were cast around his mighty limbs. Changing the allusion, I affirm that the bitter aloe of religious contention, the thorn and the brier, the bramble and the nettle of angry controversy, may flourish in a shallow and sandy soil; but the vine and the olive tree, which we are endeavoring to plant, require the deep rich loam of eminent godliness.

It is asked of us, what kind of union it is we are seeking to form; and to this question we reply, It is not an amalgamation of the different religious bodies. Though even of an approximation to this we need not quite despair, after what we have seen within the last decade.

Much less it is our object to create the real and essential unity of the Church of Christ; that has been accomplished by the death of the Son of God upon the cross and is recorded upon the pages of the Holy Scriptures. The will of man can neither make nor unmake this. We are and must be members one of another, even in spite of ourselves. There is but one church; there can be but one. Wrangle as we will, we cannot wrangle away from each other. We cannot tear ourselves away from each other, but by tearing ourselves away from the Lord Jesus Christ; and, blessed be God, there is a power which will prevent this.

Our object, then, is not to *create* essential unity, but to *manifest* it—to make a union of the followers of Jesus visible to the world. And what consistent Christian must not desire this? Who can look without deep concern upon the present state of the church of God, agitated by controversy, torn by faction, and rent by schism? Who can witness without grief her broken unity, her tarnished beauty, her shattered frame, her wasted energy? Who ought not to unite in reparing all this, to rescue Christianity from the taunt of the infidel, and protestantism from the boasted triumph of the papist? Believers in Christ, I conjure you, by the prayer and command of your divine Lord—by his agony and bloody sweat—by his cross and passion—do all you can to promote the cause of Christian union. Not by sacrifice or compromise of truth. No. The least gem that composes the diadem of truth, which flourishes on the brow of the church, must not be plucked out to purchase peace. But as we are not to sacrifice truth for love. So ought we not to sacrifice love for truth. The truth is for the sake of love. Man's moral nature is above his intellectual nature, and we must use the truth for promoting love. Love is the genius of Christianity, the temper of angels, the image of God, the bliss of heaven.

Whenever I see a Christian, there I see an object that claims my affections, bear whatever name he may. A tie goes out from my heart to bind me to every child of God in existence, which I delight not only to acknowledge, but to feel. He may not reciprocate the regard: I cannot help that, it is my privilege as well as my duty to love him; and I will not allow his want of love to me to rob me of my right, my duty, and my bliss of loving him. It is, I know my duty, if called to it by God, to die as a martyr for faith; and, if my heart do not greatly deceive me, I could as willingly be a martyr for love.

Allow me, dear brethren, in conclusion, to utter a brief caution. We are not so to identify the cause of Christian Union with our attempt to promote it, as to suppose the former cannot exist without the latter. Ours may not be God's method of bringing about the great object we have in view. He may not so far honor us as to accept our plan; still the cause will not ultimately fail. It may be with this scheme as it is with our frail bodies, there may be too much of corruption mixed up with it to allow of permanence; like them, it may have to pass under a sentence of mortality, and die, and be decomposed,

but, as in their case, its animating principle, existing in a separate state, shall survive, and the cause receive a glorious resurrection—when what is now sown in weakness shall be raised in power, and what is sown now in corruption shall be raised in corruption. Another and a happier generation, profiting by our mistakes yet stimulated by our example, will take up the subject again, and do more and better than we have done, and consummate what we have commenced. And now, beloved and honored brethren, bear with me, and forgive me, while I deliver—not indeed the responses of oracular wisdom, to which I make no pretentions; nor the counsels of patriarchal authority, to which I lay no claim but the effusions of a fraternal heart, anxious on the one hand, for the prosperity of our beloved zion, and, on the other for the employment of your official influence in promoting its welfare. To our hands, under God, are the interests of our cause confided. If the church is God's instrument for molding the religious character of the world, the ministry is God's instrument for moulding the church. Our responsibility is tremendous. On us does it depend, in no small degree, whether the church shall be actuated by a spirit of holy love, or of alienation and repulsion. With such interest dependent upon us as instruments, we should be diligent and prayerful, that in years to come it may not be said that these things were entrusted to incompetent and unworthy hands. We have a future. Now, with our hands placed confidingly in each other, with our hearts lifted trustingly to the God of all grace, let us enter hopefully upon our work.

MINUTES

OF THE

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

VIRGINIA VALLEY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

ANTIOCH, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA.,
Thursday, September 4, 1879.

THE VIRGINIA VALLEY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met here to-day in its tenth annual session.

Bro. Jesse Burkholder, President of the last session, called the body to order, and requested Rev. C. J. Ralston to conduct devotional exercises, after which the Secretary called the roll of the ministers and churches.

The following answered to their names:

ELDER: C. J. Ralston.

LICENTIATE: J. C. Williams.

LAY-DELEGATES: *From Antioch*—D. F. Lineweaver and Wm. P. Byrd. *Linville*—Col. E. Sipe and E. Emsweler.

The President announced the next thing in order was the election of a President. On motion, Bro. Jesse Burkholder was elected by acclamation. On motion, the Secretary was allowed to choose his own assistant. The choice fell upon Bro. C. A. Hinton.

On motion, of Rev. C. J. Ralston, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Editor of the *Christian Sun*, Rev. J. T. Kitchen and Bro. J. E. Stringfield, Fraternal Messengers from the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference were invited to seats in the body as deliberative members.

The President then announced the annual address as the next thing in order, whereupon the Rev. C. J. Ralston proceeded to deliver the same, taking as his text 1 Thes. 3 : 8. "For now we live if we stand fast in the Lord."

On motion, Conference adopted the following schedule for meeting during the present session: Meet at 10:30 o'clock, A. M.., and adjourn at 12:30 P. M., for preaching and dinner. Meet at 2:30 P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion, the delegates from Antioch church were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises during the present session.

On motion, a Committee on Religious Literature was appointed as follows: Rev. C. J. Ralston and Col. Emanuel Sipe. Also on Church Records as follows: D. F. Lineweaver and Rev. John C. Williams.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. John T. Kitchen of Franklin, Va., to preach to-night at 7:30 o'clock, and Rev. J. Pressley Barrett to-morrow at 12:30 P. M.

On motion, Conference then adjourned, prayer by Rev. John T. Kitchen and benediction by Rev. C. J. Ralston.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, September 5, 1879.

Conference met. President in the Chair. Religious services by Rev. John T. Kitchen. The roll was called and the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved. Bro. P. Holsinger, a delegate from the church at Bethlehem, arrived and was enrolled. A letter from Rev. W. T. Walker was read, asking a transfer from this body to the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference. On motion, a transfer was granted.

The Committee on Home Mission submitted the following

REPORT:

Your Committee beg leave to report: We have not only watched with anxious solicitude during the past year every indication tending to excite a well founded hope that the Valley Conference is gradually growing in strength and influence for good, but it has labored in its humble way by all the means at its command for the attainment of so desireable a result. Owing to a want of preachers, we have lived almost without preaching among us, and but for the services of the Rev. J. W. Wellons, Evangelist of the General Convention and Rev. John C. Williams, we would have been without preaching entirely. Their labors we are happy to report were, we believe abundantly blessed. This Conference has but few well organized churches, and we fear these under the circumstances would have become disorganized but for the energy of the local officers and lay members of these churches, who have labored zealously to keep them together. This applies particularly to Antioch and Linville churches, which are in a very good condition now. Their financial condition is better than in former years, they having during the year removed all indebtedness against them.

Both churches have kept up weekly prayer meetings and Sunday Schools, and we think have grown in grace. Respecting the condition of the other churches we are not prepared to make so favorable a report, but knowing as we do, that this constitutes an inviting field for ministerial work, we feel that we can not lay too much stress upon the importance of this Conference and its allied friends, making an effort to supply this field with efficient and zealous ministers. We have a few well organized churches and a number partly organized, together with a number of preaching places, the whole constituting a fine field for labor and talent. We sincerley hope that this body will make the necessary arrangements to have the field supplied with laborers. We state for the information of this body and inquiring friends that upon the subject of pastoral support, the few organized churches have been liberal in their support heretofore and willing to continue their liberality in this direction. We believe at least it will be commensurate with the labor and care bestowed upon them.

Let us add, ye men of God, are ye not impressed, seeing this large and fertile field without a workman, and that you could do a grand and glorious work in this portion of God's Vineyard?

Brethren, in the ministry, do not stand aloof longer or wait to consumate a bargain as to how many dollars this people can give you, but enter upon the work in faith believing, if you leave the field poorer in dollars and cents, it may be you will be richer in that that is better.

Respectfully submitted,

EMANUEL SIPE, Chairman.

After earnest remarks by Col. E. Sipe, Revs. J. Pressley Barrett, John T. Kitchen, C. J. Ralston and Bro. D. F. Lineweaver, the report was adopted.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Ralston, the Rev. John Gile of the Mennonite Church was invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member.

On motion, Conference elected the following Fraternal Messengers to the Conferences named.

Eastern Virginia :—Revs. C. J. Ralston, John C. Williams and Bros. E. Sipe and D. F. Lineweaver.

North Carolina :—Revs. C. J. Ralston, John C. Williams and Col. E. Sipe.

Central Virginia :—Rev. John C. Williams and Bro. Jesse Burkholder.

Conference took a recess during which Rev. J. Pressley Barrett preached a very interesting sermon from John 15:25, They hated &c.

Afternoon Session.

Conference resumed business. Reports of Fraternal Messengers were called for. The Fraternal Messengers gave encouraging reports of the Conferences attended, and satisfactory excusses for not attending others.

The Committee on Temperance offered the following

REPORT:

Your Committee on Temperance would beg leave to submit the following: So far as it relates to intoxicating drinks we are not able to recommend any thing as an antidote for, or a safeguard against drunkenness, save the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. Regarding drunkenness, idolatry, lying, covetousness, backsliding, hatred, strife, pride and selfishness and many other sins, might be added, all differing in their pernicious effects on society, but all alike opposed to the Christian religion. It is with pain that we recognize the fact that intemperance is manifesting itself in almost every city, town and hamlet, doing much harm. We urge Christians every where to do all in their power to suppress intemperance, relying more upon example than precept and more upon love than force, and more upon what every one can effect as individuals rather than to trust the work to organized bodies alone.

Respectfully submitted,

E. SIPE, Chairman.

After remarks by Col. Sipe, Bro. Lineweaver and Rev. J. T. Kitchen, the report was adopted.

On motion, a committee of three were appointed to raise the amount due the Secretary of Conference for traveling expenses. Committee: D. F. Lineweaver, E. Empswiler and Philip Holsinger. On motion, Conference ordered the Minutes to be published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL. A collection was taken up for the publication of the minutes. The amount necessary was raised.

On motion, Lineville Church was selected as the place for the next meeting of this Conference.

On motion, Rev. John C. Williams was chosen to deliver the annual sermon.

The Committee on Religious Exercises then announced Rev. John T. Kitchen to preach to-night at 7:30 o'clock, and Rev. J. Pressley Barrett to-morrow at 12:30 P. M. On motion, Conference adjourned. Prayer by Rev. C. J. Ralston. Benediction by Rev. J. T. Kitchen.

THIRD DAY.

September 6th, 1879.

Conference met this morning and was opened with devotional services, conducted by Rev. J. Pressley Barrett. Roll was called and proceedings of yesterday were read and approved, after some corrections.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Ralston, the Rev. John H. Barney of the Central Virginia Christian Conference was invited to a seat as a deliberative member. Bro. Barney accepted the invitation with appropriate remarks. He expressed the hope that

the two Conferences might unite, which was reciprocated by remarks from several brethren.

Revs. C. J. Ralston and John C. Williams offered their ministerial reports. Reports from the churches were read. The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported as follows:

REPORT:

Your Committee are gratified to report an increase in the interest manifested in the several churches composing this Conference. Especially do we refer to the church at Antioch. Notwithstanding the interest manifested now, the Sunday School cause has been sadly neglected in our Conference. We recommend that our churches take full charge of their respective schools and supply them with what may be necessary to their success.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

The report was discussed by Rev. Bros. Williams and Ralston and adopted. Conference took a recess, during which Rev. John T. Kitchen preached an interesting sermon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference resumed business. Committee on Education submitted the following

REPORT:

Year after pear we are more and more impressed with the importance of education. As a church we feel the need of an educated ministry and laity, too. In our opinion this subject is gaining ground. It is true we have no school of our own in the bounds of this Conference. We are glad to know, however, that schools of high grade are in reach of our people, the privileges of which we hope they will avail themselves.

We recommend that some of our enterprising brethren establish an Academy within the bounds of this body, to afford opportunities to our children and young men preparing for the ministry. We urge Conference to do what it can to aid such a work.

We have examined Bro. John C. William, and while his attainments do not reach our standard, under existing circumstances, we advise his ordination.

Bro J. S. Neiswander, a member of the church at Linville has been examined with reference to his call to the ministry. We have admitted him into the Biblical Class.

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. RALSTON.

The report was discussed by Revs. J. T. Kitchen, C. J. Ralston and Col. E. Sipe, and adopted.

On motion, Sunday morning 10:30 o'clock was set apart for the ordination of Bro. Williams. The following were appointed an Ordaining Presbytery: Revs. C. J. Ralston, John T. Kitchen and J. P. Barrett.

The Committee on Church Records, reported as follows:

REPORT:

We have examined the records of the Churches at Linville and Antioch and find them well kept.

Respectfully submitted, D. F. LINEWEAVER.

The Committee on Religious Literature offered the following report, which was discussed by Revs. J. T. Kitchen and C. J. Ralston and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee is impressed with the importance of this subject, but as to how to arrive at any practical means of advancing the enterprise, they feel at a loss to advise, but would suggest that Conference hear a report from the local agents appointed at your last session. All are aware that we have but one paper published in the interest of our church.

Since our last Conference there has been a change in the Editorship of the paper, which in our judgment has been a decided advantage to the paper and us as a people. We think, in our judgement, it meets the wants of our people more fully than it ever has. We would suggest that special effort be made during this Conference to increase the subscription, and that the local agents continue their effort to increase the circulation of the paper.

C. J. RALSTON,
E. SIPE,
Committee.

An effort was then made in behalf of the SUN, and an encouraging number of subscribers obtained.

By the request of Bro. Barney of the Central Virginia Christian Conference, a committee, consisting of Col. E. Sipe, Rev. J. C. Williams, W. P. Byrd, was appointed to meet a like committee from his Conference, for the purpose of bringing about a union between the two Conferences.

On motion the President was added to the committee.

The President appointed the following standing committees:

Education—Rev. C. J. Ralston and Col. E. Sipe.

Home Missions—Col. E. Sipe, D. F. Lineweaver and Phillip Holsinger.

Sunday Schools—D. F. Lineweaver, E. Emswiler and Wm. P. Byrd.

Temperance—Col. E. Sipe, Rev. J. C. Williams.

Executive Committee—Revs. C. J. Ralston, J. C. Williams and Col. E. Sipe.

Col. E. Sipe offered the following resolution which was adopted by a unanimous vote:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body is due and hereby tendered to this church and community, who have intertained us so well during the sitting of this body.

The Committee on Religious Exercises made the following report:

Rev. J. C. Williams to preach to-night at 7½ o'clock, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett to-morrow (Sunday) at 11 o'clock A. M., and Rev. C. J. Ralston at 2 o'clock P. M.

On motion of Rev. C. J. Ralston, Conference adjourned to meet at Linville Church, Rockingham county, Va., Thursday before the first Sunday in September 1880.

JESSE BURKHOLDER, PRESIDENT.

C. J. RALSTON, *Secretary.*

C. A. HINTON, *Assistant Secretary.*

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

PARK'S X ROADS, RANDOLPH COUNTY, N. C.,
October 9th, 1879.

THE DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE convened here to-day in its Fifteenth Annual Session, and was called to order by the Hon. H. T. Moffitt, President of the last session. Opening devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. W. R. Brown.

The following ministers and lay-delegates answered to roll call:

ELDERS: W. R. Brown, John S. Lawrence, H. A. Albright, W. W. Lawrence, W. M. Craven, W. G. Brady, J. B. Ausley, and P. P. Humble.

LICENTIATE: S. H. Way.

LAYMEN: *Pleasant Grove*—A. L. Needham, Isaac Brady. *Park's X Roads*—J. A. Parks, H. C. Vestal. *Pleasant Ridge*—J. M. Stinson, Reuben Cox. *New Center*—T. F. Cole, T. W. Lawrence. *New Bear Creek*—Thomas Brown. *New Providence*—C. D. Williamson. *Shiloh*—E. A. Moffitt, H. T. Bray. *Shady Grove*—Hiram Freeman. *Smithwood*———*Mt. Zion*—M. A. McNeil. *Oldhams' Grove*—J. A. Dickens, Wiley Estes. *Union Grove*—Adam Brown, R. F. Brown. *Brown's Chapel*—J. A. Britt.

A quorum being present, an election for officers was held with the following results: Rev. H. A. Albright, President, H. C. Vestal, Assistant Secretary.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, the Revs. J. W. Wellons, J. W. Hatch and John T. Ball, Fraternal Messengers from the North Carolina and Virginia Conference and Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Editor of the *Christian Sun* from the Eastern Virginia Conference were invited to seats as deliberative members. The

invitation was accepted by the brethren in a few appropriate remarks.

Vacancies in committees were filled as follows: *Home Missions*—Reuben Cox and Adam Brown. *Temperance*—E. A. Moffitt. *Religious Liturature*—J. M. Stinson.

On motion the delivery of the annual address was postponed till to-morrow. The following Committee on Religious Exercises was appointed: H. C. Vestal, Reuben Cox and E. A. Moffitt.

On motion, the Hon. H. T. Moffitt was invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member.

Bro. H. C. Vestal offered the following schedule to govern this body during the present session: Meet each day at 9 o'clock A. M. Adjourn at 11½ A. M., for preaching and dinner. Meet again at 1½ o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will. Adopted.

Letters from the Churches were read. A letter was also read from the Grand Worthy Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, requesting this body to memorialize the General Assembly of North Carolina to pass a Prohibitory Liquor Law. On motion, the matter was referred to the Committee on Temperance.

On motion of Rev. W. M. Craven, Bro. William Dickens of the M. P. Church, was invited to a seat as a deliberative member. The Rules of Order were then read, after which the Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. W. R. Brown to preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock, A. M., and Rev. J. W. Hatch at 2 P. M.

Rev. P. P. Humble called up the subject of dividing the Conference into "Pastorates" and made it the special order for to-morrow at 10 o'clock A. M. Ministerial reports were made the special order for 3 o'clock P. M., to-morrow.

Conference ordered the minutes to be published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL.

On motion, Conference adjourned, devotional exercises by Rev. J. W. Wellons.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, October 10, 1879.

Conference met. President in the chair. Religious exercises by Rev. W. G. Brady.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved. J. A. Britt of Brown's Chapel arrived and was enrolled a member of Conference.

On motion of Rev· W· W. Lawrence, the Rev. W· C. Kennett, of the M. P. Church, was invited to a seat as a deliberative member. He accepted in a few timely remarks, to which the President responded appropriately.

The special order of the hour was then taken up, viz: "The Pastorate System." It was discussed in a lengthy and able manner by Rev. J. W. Wellons. The hour for the delivery of the annnal address, having arrived, Conference adjourned for that purpose. It was listened to with much interest.

Afternoon Session.

President Albright in the Chair. "The Pastorate System" was taken up again and was further discussed by Rev. W. W. Lawrence, Hon. H. T. Moffitt, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev. Jno. S. Lawrence and others, after which it was adopted unanimously.

The Committee on Religious exercises announced Rev. J. Pressley Barrett to preach to-morrow at 11½ o'clock, A. M., and Rev. Jno. T. Ball at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Committee on Education made the following report which was adopted:

REPORT:

Your Committee on Education beg leave to report: We have examined Bro. Hugh T. Moffit, who applies for license to preach the gospel. We recommend his licensure.

W. R. BROWN, Chairman.

The ministerial reports were then read.

The Chair appointed the following brethren a committee to divide the Conference into Pastorates: E. A. Moffitt, J. M. Stinson, R. F. Brown, C. D. Williamson, J. A. Parks, Thomas Brown, Isaac Brday, T. W. Lawrence, Hiram Freeman, M. A. McNeil, Wiley Estes, J. A. Britt.

On motion of Bro. E. A. Moffitt the Chair appointed the following Committee to select the place for holding the next session of this body. Also to select the party to preach the annual sermon: H. T. Bray, H. C. Vestal and C. D. Williamson.

Conference then adjourned. Devotional exercises led by Rev. J. P. Barrett.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, October 11, 1879.

Conference called to order by the President, Rev. J. T. Ball led the body in religious exercises. The minutes were read and approved.

The Committee on Sunday Schools offered the following

REPORT:

Your Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools, desire to report:

That the subject under consideration is one of vast and vital importance to us as a denomination. The Sabbath School, properly managed, is the nursery of the church, in which the young are prepared for the reception of gospel truth, and an intelligent position in the church. The advantages of such schools, are second to the preaching of the word, in the promulgation of the principles of our holy religion. There is no better evidence of a live church than a prosperous Sabbath School. And if, we would have our principles as a church espoused by the world, especially, by the young men and women, and the little boys and girls, they must be spread before them. We must advocate them, and teach them to our children; and learn them to love and cherish the same as sacred and honorable. In the Sabbath School, this can be accomplished.

What are our churches doing in this grand and noble enterprise? A majority of them are engaged in this work and laboring faithfully. Some of our churches conduct successful Sabbath Schools, and are wonderfully blessed. And wherever a successful Sabbath School has been conducted, a greater or less revival of religion has followed.

We would, therefore, urge upon our brethren a more earnest effort generally. Brethren, we should have schools or this kind at all of our churches. Let the ministry and the laity come to this gracious work as they have not before, looking upon it as a work of necessity and of vast importance to the success of our Masters' cause and the peculiar principles of our church. We hope, next year, every church will be able to report a Sabbath School with the number of teachers and scholars.

May the good Lord bless this enterprise and help his people to push it forward. Respectfully submitted,

H. A. ALBRIGHT,
P. P. HUMBLE,
W. W. HAYWORTH,
Committee.

It was discussed by Revs. J. Pressley Barrett, J. W. Wellons and adopted.

A letter from Smithwood was read.

The Committee appointed to group the churches into Pastorates summitted the following

REPORT:

Pastorate No. 1.—Park's X Roads, Pleasant Grove and Smithwood.
Pastorate No. 2.—Shiloh, Brown's Chapel and New Providence.
Pastorate No. 3.—Shady Grove, New Center and Mt. Zion.
Pastorate No. 4.—Pleasant Ridge, Union Grove and New Bear Creek.
Pastorate No. 5.—Oldham's Grove.

The Committee appointed to select the place for the next meeting of this body, and the minister to preach the annual sermon made the following

REPORT:

Your Committee recommend Pleasant Grove as the place for the next annual meeting, and Rev. John S. Lawrence to preach the introductory sermon.

Respectfully submitted,

H. T. BRAY,
H. C. VESTAL,
C. D. WILLIAMSON,
Committee.

It was adopted.

The Committee on Religious Literature offered the following

REPORT:

We your Committee on Religious Literature beg leave to submit our report: We feel satisfied that without the aid of the press—we cannot succeed in carrying forward the enterprises of our Conference. Without some medium of communication, we cannot as a prosperous people see our entire strength utilized. Neither can we keep our own people alive, nor reach the minds of others, in reference to the great work we are indeavoring to accomplish. We have no paper published in the interest of our cause, within the bounds of this Conference, but we recommend the *Christian Sun*, Published by Rev. J. Presley Barrett and Maj. D. B. Dunbar of Suffolk, Va. We would call the attention of this body to the fact that this paper is not receiving at the hands of our people in general, and more particularly within the bounds of this Conference, that hearty support which its importance demands. We therefore urge upon the ministers and every delegate of this body, and all other friends of our cause to do their utmost to extend its circulation. And we further recommend that every head of families that desires the prosperity of the blessed principles of the Christian Church, do subscribe for the *Sun*, that we may know what is going on throughout the bounds of all our Conferences, and the country at large.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. BROWN,
E. A. MOFFITT,
OLIVER VESTAL,
W. G. BRADY,
J. M. STINSON
Committee.

The report was discussed by Revs. J. T. Ball, J. W. Wellons, J. P. Barrett, J. S. Lawrence, W. R. Brown, P. P. Humble, W. M. Craven and Bros. H. T. Moffitt, S. H. Way and E. A. Moffitt. The report was adopted. The Editor of the *Sun* being present he canvassed the congregation for subscribers and quite a number were obtained. Conference then adjourned for preaching and dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Business was resumed with the President in the Chair.

Rev. W. R. Brown and Bro. Hugh T. Moffitt were appointed Fraternal Messengers to the Eastern Virginia Conference.

Revs. H. A. Albright, J. S. Lawrence, W. G. Brady and Bro. H. C. Vestal, were appointed Fraternal Messengers to the North Carolina and Virginia Conference.

Revs. H. A. Albright and S. H. Way were appointed to the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Conference.

Rev. W. R. Brown offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this body do hereby return their thanks to this church and to the people of the community for their hospitality to this body.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced Rev. J. Pressley Barrett to preach to-morrow at 10½ o'clock, and Rev. J. W. Wellons at 11½ and Rev. W. R. Brown at 2½ o'clock P. M.

The Committee on Home Missions made the following

REPORT:

We your Committee to supply the Pastorates with ministerial labor would report as follows: No 1—W. R. Brown. No. 2—John S. Lawrence. No. 3—W. W. Lawrence. No. 4—H. A. Albright. No. 5—W. M. Craven.

Respectfully submitted,

H. C. VESTAL,
E. A. MOFFITT,
REUBEN COX,
C. D. WILLIAMSON,
D. C. BROWN,
Committee.

The report was discussed by Revs. J. W. Wellons, P. P. Humble and others and adopted.

The Committee on Temperance submitted the following

REPORT:

We your Committee to whom was referred the subject of Temperance beg leave to submit the following:

We are happy to say that we believe the great evil is gradually abating. Temperance ought to be the theme of all God's people. As Christians it should be a part of our Christian character in what we say or do. We deem this subject of vital importance to the cause of Christ and human happiness. It is a subject in which we are equally interested, and by the advancement of which we verily believe the cause of Christ, the interest and happiness of our country will immeasurably, if not permanently be secured. We have the pleasure to state that this subject has, and still is enjoying the untiring and ennobling efforts of some of the wise and good people of our country in trying to avert the great moral pollution from the land.

The committee having received a communication from the Grand Lodge of Good Templars of North Carolina, requesting us a Conference to memoralize the Legislature of North Carolina in the next session of that body to pass a

State prohibatory liquor law. We therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved, That the Secretary be ordered to write out the petition, have the President sign the same and foward the paper to the Grand Worthy Secretary of the Good Templars for North Carolina.

W. W. LAWRENCE,
E. A. MOFFITT,
A. L. NEEDHAM,
Committee.

It was discussed by Revs. J. T. Ball, W. G. Brady and H. A. Albright and others and adopted.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at Pleasant Grove, Randolph County, N. C , on Thursday before the second Sunday in October 1880.

H. A. ALBRIGHT, PRESIDENT.

W. W. HAYWORTH, *Secretary.*

H. C. VESTAL, *Assistant Secretary.*

Ministerial Report.

W. R. BROWN, (Missionary).—Preached 97 sermons. Spent 103 days at work.

W. W. LAWRENCE.—Had charge of New Center. Attended several protracted meetings. Preached 30 sermons.

P. P. HUMBLE.—No field on account of bad health. Preached a little.

W. M. CRAVEN.—No charge. Aided 6 protracted meetings.

J. S. LAWRENCE.—Three churches in charge. Preached 75 sermons. My labors have been blessed.

H. A. ALBRIGHT.—Had charge of two churches. Held a protracted meeting at each—9 conversions; 13 accessions. Preached 40 sermons. Feel encouraged.

W. G. BRADY.—Two churches and 6 conversions.

J. B. AUSLEY.—Have had two regular appointments since July. Am encouraged.

S. H. WAY.—Assisted at Union Grove. Assisted also in four protracted meetings—labored in the Sabbath School.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Received.	Removed.	Expelled.	Died.	Member-ship.
Pleasant Grove	W. G. Brady	A. L. Needham, Isaac Brady	2	1	2		169
Park's X Roads	J. S. Lawrence	H. C. Vestal, James Parks		4		2	57
Pleasant Ridge	H. A. Albright	Reuben Cox, J. M. Stinson	3				96
Shiloh	J. S. Lawrence	E. A. Moffitt, H. T. Bray	26	2	3		141
Union Grove	H. A. Albright	Adam Brown, R. F. Brown	11			2	65
Shady Grove	J. S. Lawrence	Hiram Freeman	1	5	1		44
New Providence	W. R. Brown	C. D. Williamson		11	1		23
New Center	W. W. Lawrence	T. W. Lawrence T. F. Cole	3	1	7	1	91
Brown's Chapel	W. R. Brown	John Britt					38
Oldham's Grove	W. G. Brady	Wiley Estes, J. A. Dickens	4				34
Mt. Zion	W. R. Brown	M. A. McNiel	1				26
New Bear Creek	W R. Brown	Thomas Brown	1	1			14
Smithwood	W. R. Brown	Represented by letter					7
			51	25	14	5	805

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Georgia and Alabama Christian Conference.

FELLOWSHIP, RANDOLPH COUNTY, ALA.,
Saturday, October 4th, 1879.

THE GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met here to-day in its twenty-fifth annual session. In the absence of Rev. Jubilee Smith, President of the last session, Rev. James D. Elder called the Conference to order.

The Secretary called the roll of ministers and churches, and the following elders, licentiates and lay delegates were enrolled as present:

ELDERS: Jas. D. Elder, Jas. L. Neese and Thos. H. Elder.

LICENTIATES: W. J. Manning, William Knight.

LAY-DELEGATES: *New Hope*—J. Stephens, A. J. Chewning. *Pleasant Union*—D. C. Sharp, William Griswell. *Liberty*—G. B. Knight, William Collin. *Antioch*—Henry Kitchens, Bowden Brown. *New Harmony*—William Baker. *Fellowship*—William Osborn. *Providence*—J. J. Rodgers, Walker Abel.

A quorum being present, an election for officers was held with the following result: Rev. Jas. D. Elder was chosen President, Rev. Jas. L. Neese, Secretary, and William Collin, Assistant Secretary.

On motion, committees were appointed as follows:

On Standing of the Ministry—P. S. Foster, J. J. Rodges, William Osborn.

On Churches—W. Abel, A. J. Chewning, Henry Kitchens.

On Education—W. Collin, J. L. Neese, W. Baker.

On Temperance—T. Sharp, W. J. Manning, J. B. Walls, W. Griswell.

On Sunday Schools—T. H. Elder, W. Knight, J. L. Neese.

Conference then adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

October 6th, 1879.

Conference met according to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. D. Elder.

Proceedings of yesterday were read and approved. Reports of committees were called for.

The report on the Standing of the Ministry was offered and was adopted.

REPORT:

Your committee beg leave to report that we find the Ministry in good standing, and in the discharge of duty, except Rev. G. M. Hurst. We cannot learn at present what he is doing.

Respectfully submitted, P. S. FOSTER, Chairman.

The Committee on the Standing of the Churches made their report as follows and adopted.

REPORT:

We beg leave to report that we find all the churches doing well, and holding their meetings regularly, except Liberty, which had no pastor the past year.

Respectfully submitted, J. W. ABELL, Chairman.

The Committee on Education submitted the following report which was adopted.

REPORT:

We see great need of education, especially in the ministry. We recommend that all means possible be used to assist our young ministers in prosecuting their studies. We recommend our denominational schools at Suffolk, Virginia, the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, and the Graham High School, at Graham, N. C., as worthy of patronage.

Adopted. WILLIAM COLLIN, Chairman.

The Committee on Sunday Schools offered their report which was adopted.

REPORT:

We urge the immediate organization of Sabbath Schools in all the Churches of this Conference, and that pastors use every exertion to enlist the sympathy and secure the attendance of the members, thereby influencing the members to engage in the work. There is a great need of such a work among us and our children. As parents, as lovers of morality, as Christians, it is our duty. We desire to see the rising generation converted to Christianity. Let us work for this end and God will bless us with success.

Respectfully submitted. T. H. ELDER, Chairman.

A report from the Committee on Temperance was handed in, discussed and adopted.

REPORT:

We deplore the evils arising from the use of intoxicating drinks. No one evil has been more disastrous in its effects upon the people than this, and consequently should be watched more closely. We should watch its advances, and by all just means try to arrest its progress. We believe those who persist in the use and manufacture of ardent spirits as a beverage should be subject to censure, and in extreme cases expulsion from the church. Look well to this matter.

Respectfully, D. C. SHARP, Chairman.

On motion, Conference resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the subject of periodicals. The following report was made:

REPORT:

We desire that every member of this body subscribe at once for our denominational paper, the CHRISTIAN SUN, published at Suffolk, Va. Its columns are devoted to the interest of the Christian Organization. Let us see a copy of it in every house, for the paper is worthy of patronage, and just such an one as we need in our country. It was adopted.

Fraternally submitted, J. L. NEESE, Chairman.

Conference then took a recess until 2½ o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference assembled at the appointed hour.

The following ministerial reports were made:

REPORT:

REV. JUBILEE SMITH—Preached regularly at Christian Union and Providence, also at various other places. Ten members added to my church.

REV. T. H. ELDER—Preached 62 sermons, delivered 29 exhortations, received into the church 16, baptized 9, married 2 couples, and traveled 577 miles.

REV. JAS. D. ELDER—Had in charge New Hope, Antioch and Fellowship. Also New Harmony since August. Have visited the brethren in Georgia quarterly. Delivered 102 sermons, 18 exhortations, received 14 in the church, baptized 10, married 8 couples, attended 8 funerals, and traveled 1341 miles. The most pleasant year of my ministerial life.

REV. JAS. L. NEESE—Preached as opportunity offered. Feel that my labors have been blessed. Am teaching, and desire the co-operation of my brethren in my efforts to train the young.

REV. W. J. MANNING—Have engaged in prayer-meetings and Sunday School work. My labors have been blessed.

REV. WILLIAM KNIGHT—Have preached wherever and whenever opportunity offered. Prevented to some extent from work by sickness. Hope to do more another year.

The Committee on Examination recommended Bro. William Knight a licentiate for ordination to the office of Elder in the

Christian Church. A Presbytery was appointed and Bro. Knight was set apart to that office.

On motion Conference decided to hold its next session with the Church at Providence, Red Hill, Stewart County, Georgia, beginning on Friday night before the first Sunday in October, 1880.

The minutes were ordered to be published in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL.

Rev. J. L. Neese was appointed to preach the introductory sermon at the next session.

The following were appointed an Executive Committee: Revs. Jas. D. Elder, J. L. Neese and T. H. Elder.

On motion adjourned as specified above.

JAS. D. ELDER, PRESIDENT.

J. L. NEESE, *Secretary.*

W. COLLIN, *Assistant Secretary.*

(5)

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

WINDSOR, ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA.,
Wednesday, October 29th, 1879.

THE EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met here to-day in its fifty-ninth annual session.

Rev. John N. Manning, President of the last session called the body to order and conducted the opening devotional exercises.

The Secretary called the roll of ministers and churches, and the following elders, licentiates and lay-delegates were enrolled:

ELDERS: M. B. Barrett, J. Pressley Barrett, Jno. T. Kitchen, J. N. Manning, R. H. Holland, E. W. Beale.

LICENTIATES: H. H. Butler, J. U. Newman.

LAY-DELEGATES: *Antioch*—R. J. Eley, N. B. Munford. *Barrett's*—B. B. Harris, B. F. Wellons, N. V. Branch. *Berea*, (Norfolk)—Mark Hollowell, N. W. Hall. *Bethlehem*—Richard Copeland, David McClenny, R. W. Nelms. *Holy Neck*—I. W. Everett, W. T. Jones. *Ivor*—Geo. T. Rawls. *Johnson's Grove*—R. W. Gate. *Mt. Carmel*—1. W. Duck, Jos. H. English, Julius C. Johnson. *Providence*—Dr. F. W. Tatem, S. A. Etheridge. *Sharon*—William Duke, Prentice Duke. *Suffolk*—John T. Nurney, Jacob Lawshe. *Union*—R. A. Ricks. *Windsor*—M. L. Watkins, A. M. Eley. *Hebron*—M. H. Holland.

A quorum being present an election was held for President and Assistant Secretary. Rev. M. B. Barrett was chosen President, and Bro. R. A. Ricks Assistant Secretary. Bro. Barrett on taking the chair made some appropriate remarks.

The Rules of Order were read and adopted after striking out the last number.

Rev. W. T. Walker was, on motion, elected to membership in this body, he having obtained a transfer from the Virginia Valley Conference.

On motion, Rev. J. T. Ball, a fraternal messenger from the North Carolina and Virginia Conference, and Rev. C. J. Ralston from the Virginia Valley Conference, were invited to seats as deliberative members, also the ministerial students present.

The following delegates arrived and were enrolled: *Eure's*—H. A. Eure. *Antioch*—S. A. Eley, J. C. Thomas. *Liberty Spring*—John Byrd, William Rawls. *Damascus*—John R. Hinton.

On motion, a committee on religious exercises was appointed, as follows: Rev. E. W. Beale, M. L. Watkins and A. M. Eley.

The President then announced that the hour for the delivery of the annual address had arrived. Whereupon, Rev. R. H. Holland proceeded to deliver the annual address, which he did in an able and highly instructive manner. The address showed that much time and thought had been spent in its preparation. At the conclusion the choir of the Windsor Church sang with thrilling effect that grand old hymn, so appropriate to the occasion,

"Hold the Fort."

The President called the Conference to order, and the following delegates were announced as having arrived: *Oakland*—James E. Pitt. *Damascus*—George J. Costen. *Bethany*—Jas. N. Cobb, Jesse T. Harcum. *Union*—H. C. Moore. An application was made for membership in this body by a new church in Surry County, Va., organized by Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, known as UNION. The church was received, and Bro. C. W. Whitmore enrolled as a delegate from that church.

On motion the letters from the churches were read as follows: Antioch, Bethlehem, Berea (Norfolk), Damascus, Hebron, Holy Neck, Ivor, Berkley, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Providence, Sharon, Suffolk, Union, Bethany, Windsor and Spring Hill.

The following delegates arrived and were enrolled: R. T. West, John H. Harris of Spring Hill, and W. J. Lee, of Berea (Nansemond).

Ministerial reports were called for and read from the following ministers: J. P. Barrett, M. B. Barrett, S. S. Barrett, E. W. Beale, H. H. Butler, John T. Kitchen, C. J. Ralston.

Bro. M. L. Watkins offered the following schedule to govern the meetings of this session:

Meet at 9½ A. M., and adjourn at 2 P. M.

On motion a committee on church records was appointed as follows: J. U. Newman, I. W. Duck, Richard Copeland.

On motion Conference appointed the following Fraternal Messengers:

North Carolina and Virginia Conference: Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev. J. T. Kitchen, Rev. E. W. Beale, Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. W. T. Walker and Dr. F. W. Tatem.

Virginia Valley Conference: Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev W. T. Walker, J. T. Nurney, Rev. John T. Kitchen, Rev. J. N. Manning and Rev. J. U. Newman.

Deep River Conference: Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Rev. E. W. Beale, J. T. Nurney, A. M. Eley.

Committee on religious exercises announced Rev. H. H. Butler to preach to-night at 7 o'clock.

On motion Conference adjourned. Prayer by Rev. C. J. Ralston.

SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, October 30, 1879.

The President called the Conference to order and Rev. J. P. Barrett conducted devotional exercises.

The roll was called and proceedings of yesterday read and approved. The following delegates arrived and were enrolled. *Berea*—T. R. Gaskins. *Cypress Chapel*—J. E. Riddick, Dempsey Jones, D. P. Wright. *Holy Neck*—P. H. Lee. Col. A. Savage, Treasurer of Conference arrived and took his seat.

On motion Rev. J. W. Wellons was invited to a seat as a deliberative member. Bro. Wellons responded in remarks of an encouraging character with reference to the condition of his Conference and also his work as an evangelist.

Reports from the following Churches, Berea, Cypress, Eure's, Barrett's.

Committee on Religious Literature offered the following report, which was discussed by Rev. J. W. Wellons, Maj. I. W. Duck, Rev. J. T. Kitchen, Rev. W. T. Walker, Rev. H. H. Butler, Rev. John T. Ball, Rev. J. N. Manning, and laid on the table for to-morrow at 1 o'clock.

Rev. W. T. Walker offered the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the Rev. R. H. Holland for the very able and excellent address delivered by him at the opening of the present session of this Conference, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication, by consent of the Editor, in the SUN.

Rev. John N. Manning offered the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, Many persons in connection with our local churches neglect, often habitually, the sacraments of the church. Therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Conference that any person that neglects to observe duly the sacraments of the church, unless conscience forbids, thereby becomes a subject of discipline, and should be treated as a delinquent in important christian duties. Adopted.

Bro. J. W. Johnson, of Johnson's Grove, arrived and took his seat, also Bro. Jas. H. Daughtrey, of Hebron.

On motion of Dr. F. W. Tatem the subject of dividing the Conference into Pastorates, as recommended by the General Convention was called up for consideration. On motion speeches upon this subject were limited to fifteen minutes.

The discussion was opened by Rev. J. W. Wellons. Rev. J. T. Kitchen, Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, Maj. I. W. Duck, Rev. W. T. Walker followed, after which further discussion was postponed till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Committee on religious exercises announced Rev. W. T. Walker to preach to-night at 7 o'clock.

Rev. W. T. Walker was granted leaf of absence for the remainder of the session by the President.

On motion Conference adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Ball.

THIRD DAY.

FRIDAY, October 31, 1879.

Conference met. President in the chair. Religious services were conducted by Rev. John T. Kitchen.

Secretary called the roll and read the proceedings of yesterday, which were approved.

The Secretary offered the report on District Meetings as follows:

REPORT:

Your committee on District Meetings beg leave to report:

We have held a meeting every fifth Sunday in the interest of our denominational enterprises. At Hebron in December, our meeting was almost broken up by bad weather. At Holy Neck in March, we had a good meeting, which resulted in very material aid to our enterprises. In June, at Johnson's Grove, a good meeting was held, in which there was considerable enthusiasm. In August a meeting of some interest was held at Oakland. Several things worked against us. We hope for better results another year. We believe this work can be made very effective in aiding our enterprises. We urge our pastors to aid this cause by inducing their churches to ask for meetings and to have their churches represented in the same.

Very Respectfully, J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, Secretary.

On motion the Conference ordered the Secretary to report the amounts collected at these meetings.

On motion Conference went into the election of a place for the next meeting. Bethany, Southampton County, Va., was chosen.

On motion Rev. M. B. Barrett was chosen to preach the Annual Sermon, and Rev. J. U. Newman was chosen an alternate.

Maj. D. B. Dunbar arrived from Suffolk, and took his seat.

On motion the special order for 11 o'clock was called for and was taken up, and discussed by Rev. J. T. Kitchen and Rev. C. J. Ralston.

On motion the subject was laid on the table till next Conference.

Bro. George J. Costen, George T. Rawls, H. A. Eure, B. B. Harris and C. W. Whitmore were granted leave of absence after to-day.

The report on Religious Literature was called up, and after some discussion and an effort to obtain subscribers for the SUN, the report was adopted.

REPORT:

Your committee on Religious Literature find a great need of tracts and books for general circulation among the people. We look forward with much anxiety to the time when this want shall be met. At present our main literature is found in the CHRISTIAN SUN, the acknowledged organ of the Christian Church, South. We urge our people to give it a hearty support. Many of you know something of the trials through which it has passed since our last Conference. It still lives, but is needing a more liberal support.

We ask the delegates in this Conference to look after the circulation of the paper in their respective churches when they return home. Of the ministers we ask the same thing, with the assurance that their efforts will be highly appreciated, and result in much good both to their own individual churches and to the cause at large. We believe a paper that is faithful to our cause is of great service to a pastor in keeping his church up to the times and work of the denomination.

Respectfully submitted,

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT.
H. H. BUTLER,
A. M. ELEY,
P. H. LEE,
T. R. GASKINS,
Committee.

Several subscriptions were received.

The Committee on Church Records reported. After some discussion the report was returned to the committee, whereupon on motion of Bro. Manning the committee was instructed to note all irregularities and omissions in the proper keeping of the Church records, and embody the same in their report to Conference, giving the names of all delinquents.

Dr. F. W. Tatem offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to be composed of Revs. R. H. Holland, E. W. Beale, M. B. Barrett, J. N. Manning and C. J. Ralston, whose duty it shall be to prepare tracts or books to be distributed among our people at as early a day as possible. It was amended, and on motion of Rev. J. P. Barrett, was referred to the Committee on Religious Literature, with instruction to proceed at once with the work.

The Committee on Sunday Schools reported as follows, which was adopted.

REPORT:

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following:

That the Sabbath School work is of great magnitude and of paramount interest to our cause as a denomination and to Christianity generally. On it the church is dependent for its future prosperity to a great extent—a flourishing Sabbath School betokens a flourishing Church. From the Sabbath School comes the greater number of our accessions to the church.

In our Conference there are about twenty-five schools, but we are sorry to report that many of them are not well sustained. We would earnestly request all pastors to give the Sabbath School work their personal attention.

R. H. HOLLAND,
I. W. DUCK,
D. B. DUNBAR
Committee.

A letter from Bro. John T. Nurney, President of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, asking aid to repair the building, yard, &c., was read to the Conference.

On motion the subject of the letter was taken up and discussed by Rev. J. N. Manning and Bro. I. W. Duck. The chair then appointed a committee to solicit contributions for the above purpose.

A collection was taken up for the purpose named.

On motion Conference decided to publish its proceedings in the CHRISTIAN ANNUAL. On motion it was decided to publish Rev. R. H. Holland's address in a pamphlet.

The committee on Finance made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT:

We your committee appointed last Conference to take into consideration the recommendations of the General Convention to raise a Convention fund, report, that a public collection in the month of June in each Church was requested to be taken up, which was done, $— being the result of the effort. We recommend the effort be annually made in a similar manner that the pressing needs of the Convention may be met. I. W. DUCK.

On motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, it was decided that hereafter the Treasurers of the local churches should pay directly to

the Treasurer of our Conference all funds raised for the denominational enterprises.

The Committee on religious exercises reported Rev. M. B. Barrett to preach to-night.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Wellons.

FOURTH DAY.

SATURDAY, November 1, 1879.

Conference met and was called to order by the President.

Religious exercises were conducted by Rev. H. H. Butler. The Secretary called the roll and read the proceedings of yesterday's session, which were approved.

Prof. P. J. Kernodle of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute and Rev. R. C. Tuck, of Norfolk County, Va., were invited to seats as deliberative members.

Rev. John T. Kitchen offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That each minister be requested to take up a collection in each of his churches during the year, the proceeds of which are to be appropriated to a fund for the relief of aged and infirm ministers.

The resolution was discussed by Rev. John T. Kitchen, Dr. F. W. Tatem, Col. A. Savage, Rev. J. P. Barrett, and was adopted.

The committee on education offered their report. On motion the report was taken up seriatim, adopted by sections and then as a whole, after discussion by various brethren.

REPORT:

Your committee on education submit the following report:

I. With reference to the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, we bring cheering news. Since our last report when many considered the school dead, a revolution, so to speak, has taken place in regard to the workings of the school. Rev. E. W. Beale became its superintendent, while Profs. Kernodle and Kilby, Mrs. Quimby and Miss Colvin constitute the new faculty who are giving great satisfaction as teachers. At present there are 88 pupils in the school, and the prospects are considered good for 100 in January. Bro. John T. Nurney, a Deacon in the Suffolk Church, has been elected President of the Board of Trustees. He is working hard to build up the school, improve the property and make the institution pay. We urge our people to help him. We again remind delinquents that it is important that they pay the amount they have subscribed.

II. We have had five young men under our care during the past year. 1st, Bro. H. H. Butler a licentiate appeared before us an applicant for ordination. We have examined him. Taking into consideration the number of churches recommending him for ordination and therefore the demand for his work, we advise his ordination. 2d, Bro. J. U. Newman, also a licentiate, appeared before us. He is preaching very acceptably, (by which he supports himself at school), is making good progress in his studies, and we recommend

him to continue his studies under the direction of the Committee. 3d, Bros. J. William Barrett, Robert E. Barrett and M. W. Butler, have been at school during the past year at the Institute. They have made fair progress and we recommend Conference to continue them in school. 4th, For this purpose we urge Conference to take up a collection at once, not only from individuals, but from the several churches through their delegates. 5th, Since we have had difficulty in collecting this money hitherto, mainly because no one was appointed to give it special attention, we recommend to the committee who may succeed us, Dr. F. W. Tatem as a person well qualified to become its Corresponding Secretary, and look after the collection of these funds.

III. Four applications for membership in the Biblical Class have been received and the applicants admitted. 1st, Bro. R. A. Ricks, of Union, Southampton County. He is a young man of much promise. He is teaching at present, but will enter school next spring. Bro. Ricks will pay his own way for a year or more. 2d, Bro. Jos. T. Moore, also of Union. He has already entered the school at Suffolk. He will need the assistance of Conference in prosecuting his studies. 3d, Bro John W. Patton comes to us well recommended by the Christian Church at Shallow Ford, N. C. He is a young man of promise—is already in school at Suffolk, and is paying his own expenses. We have received him into the Biblical Class. 4th, Bro. R. W. Gate, from the Church at Johnson's Grove. He is at present teaching school. The committee receive him. He will make an effort to put himself in school in the Spring.

IV. We recommend that young men who receive help from Conference, instead of giving note and security as required by the Conference last year, be required to give their note with their honor as their security for the money we expend on them, with terms requiring no interest but a return of the amount of money actually spent in their education by this body, as soon after leaving school as they can make it convenient.

V. We ask Conference to recommend to the local churches the propriety of assisting such young men among their membership as may wish to preach by helping them to attend a school till they shall give sufficient promise of usefulness and especially of capacity to warrant us in assisting them. This will save the committee much unnecessary responsibility, and the Conference much expense. The committee do not feel it their duty to take up these cases when the applicant has not given any promise of usefulness. We urge this matter because of its importance.

Respectfully submitted,

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
J. N. MANNING,
E. W. BEALE,
J. T. KITCHEN.

Committee.

On motion, Conference appointed an Ordaining Presbytery to set apart Bro. H. H. Butler to the office of an Elder, tomorrow, (Sunday) at 10 o'clock, consisting of Rev. J. N. Manning, Rev. M. B. Barrett, Rev. E. W. Reale.

A collection was taken resulting very satisfactorily for the education of young ministers.

The committee on Church Records made the following report which was adopted:

REPORT:

We, your committee to examine the Church Records, have had under our supervision the records from Eure's, Johnson's Grove, Bethany, Union, Cypress Chapel, Holy Neck, Spring Hill, Berea (Nansemond), Suffolk, Antioch, Windsor, Mt. Carmel, which we found neatly kept.

The records of the churches at Antioch, Holy Neck and Cypress Chapel have not the primary constitution inserted in them.

Johnson's Grove and Berea are the only churches whose records show the amount of money received or expended. The records of Barretts, Bethlehem, Berea (Norfolk), Damascus, Hebron, Ivor, Liberty Spring, Oakland, Jerusalem, Providence and Sharon were not submitted to us.

Respectfully submitted,

J. U. NEWMAN,
I. W. DUCK,
R. COPELAND,
Committee.

The Executive Committee also made their report which after some discussion was adopted:

REPORT:

The Executive Committee would report the following as their action since the last meeting of Conference. The withdrawal of a member of our body have left vacancies in several committees and officers of importance which we filled as follows: Rev. J. P. Barrett was appointed a member of the Committee on Education. Rev. R. H. Holland was appointed to deliver the introductory address before your body, which he has already most satisfactorily done. Rev. J. T. Kitchen was appointed to represent this Conference in the General Convention.

The young and growing Church at Windsor being most desirous of completing their house of worship, and having exhausted all their means, proposed to borrow of the Missionary Fund two hundred dollars. Your committee agreed, and did loan to responsible individuals, those who were in every way most satisfactory, and unquestionably able to return the amount when needed—$200, for one year with interest.

The Christian Connection in the State of Ohio, have Missionary Societies, composed of children, organized in many parts of the State that have been very successful, and propose to keep missionaries employed in several sections of the country. They kindly offered to engage one of our ministers in the South, and to contribute $25 every three months towards his support. Your committee appropriated the amount to Rev. J. W. Wellons as filling the office designated most efficiently and satisfactorily. Our Ohio brethren meeting with some disappointment did not however forward the amount of $25 but once, these brethren nevertheless deserve the hearty thanks of our people.

Your committee also appropriated $42,50 for the benefit of Jerusalem Church at Berkley, out of the Missionary Fund, which they trust was well expended.

Respectfully,

J. N. MANNING,
R. H. HOLLAND,
E. W. BEALE,
M. B. BARRETT,
Committee.

On motion, Bros. John Byrd and J. R. Hinton were granted leave of absence.

On motion it was decided to hold an extra session of Conference to-night.

On motion it was decided that the Executive Committee shall have power to spend missions funds during the interim of Conference in cases of emergency.

Rev. J. W. Wellons spent a few minutes in remarks of a general character.

Leave of absence was granted Bros. Richard Copeland and R. W. Nelms.

Conference adjourned to meet to-night at 7 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. M. B. Barrett.

Night Session.

7 O'clock, P. M.

The President called the Conference to order.

The report of the Church at Johnson's Grove was read.

A motion was made to reconsider the motion made by Bro. A. M. Eley giving certain power to the Executive Committee in regard to spending mission funds. The motion was lost.

The following resolution was offered by Dr. F. W. Tatem:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and hereby tendered, to the pastor Rev. E. W. Beale, and to this Church, and people of this village, who have entertained us so kindly during the sitting of this body.

Resolved, That we appreciate the kindness of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad Company, in passing delegates for one fare.

The Committee on Missions offered the following report:

REPORT:

Your committee are pleased to report that the general outlook for our cause is more hopeful than we have ever seen it. All our churches are supplied except Liberty, Norfolk County, Va. That is a most important point—a place where with proper effort a strong church may be built up. We therefore recommend that this Conference appropriate $50 to send Rev. John T. Kitchen to that point to be pastor of that church.

Our Home Mission finances are in an encouraging condition. However, many of the parties have failed to pay up the interest due for one or two, and some for three years. We think it will not do to allow this to continue. We therefore recommend that our Financial Secretary be allowed to employ an assistant to aid him in collecting these dues. We suggest that the amount allowed such assistant for such service be put at $150,00 to be paid from the collections made by the assistant. We learn that the Financial Secretary thinks by allowing him such an arrangement much of these back dues can be collected.

We also recommend that the following annual collections be taken for the purposes named and at the times named: *For Home Missions*, October. *For Superannuated Fund*, December. *For Ministerial Education*, February. *For Publications*, April. *For General Convention Fund*, June. *For Contingent Conference Fund*, August.

We also urge that ministers give special attention to these matters.

We are pleased to state that the church building at Berkley in which our people worship now has been made the property of this body by the kindness of Bro. A. L. Hill, of Norfolk. We suggest a vote of thanks for his kindness and liberality in the matter.

We urge our pastors and people to interest themselves in establishing in every Church a Ladies' Missionary Union, for the government of which we offer a constitution. We recommend Conference to have 300 copies of the Constitution printed for the use of these Unions.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. BEALE,
J. PRESSLEY BARRETT,
M. B. BARRETT,
A. SAVAGE,

Committee.

Dr. F. W. Tatem offered his resignation as agent for the fund for the education of young ministers. The resignation was accepted, and Rev. E. W. Beale was chosen in his place.

The Treasurer offered his report which was adopted:

REPORT:

ALEXANDER SAVAGE, TREASURER,

In account with the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference:

1878,			
Nov. 6,	To Deposit in Farmer's Bank	599 53	
" "	Interest received on Deposit	32 66	
1879,			
Nov. 6,	Interest received on Home Mission bonds	341 29	
" "	Amount received as contingent fund	6 98	
April 2,	By check on bank in favor A. M. Eley and others by order Exec'tv. Committee, which amount is loaned on Bond		200 00
Aug. 1,	By amount paid for benefit of Church at Berkley, by order Executive Committee		42 50
Nov. 6,	By amount for printing paid out of contingent fund		2 30
		980 46	244 80
		244 80	
Nov. 6,	To balance in Bank to credit E. V. C. C.	$735 66	
" "	To bond A. M. Eley and others, dated April 2, 1879	200 00	
		$935 66	

The President announced the following Standing Committees for the ensuing year:

Education—J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale, J. T. Kitchen, J. Pressley Barrett, W. T. Walker.

Home Missions—E. W. Beale, J. P. Barrett, I. W. Duck, A. M. Eley, Richard Copeland.

Sunday Schools—J. T. Kitchen, R. A. Ricks, J. W. Johnson, R. J. Eley, M. L. Watkins.

Religious Literature—W. T. Walker, R. H. Holland, J. T. Kitchen, J. P. Barrett, J. N. Manning.

Executive Committee—E. W. Beale, R. H. Holland, John T. Kitchen.

On motion the name of the President was added to the Committee on Religious Literature.

On motion of Bro. J. U. Newman, it was decided to have this body incorporated by the Legislature of Virginia.

On motion Conference adjourned to meet at Bethany, Southampton County, Va., on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November, 1880.

M. B. BARRETT, PRESIDENT.

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, *Secretary.*
R. A. RICKS, *Assistant Secretary.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	LAY DELEGATES.	Members rep't'd last session.	Received since.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Connected with Sunday Sch'ls.	Amount Paid Pastor.	To Educate Y'ung Preach'rs	For Other Purposes.	Whole Amount.	Value of Ch'ch Property.
Antioch	E. W. Beale.	R. J. Eley, J. C. Thomas, S. A. Eley, N. B. Munford.	481	3	6	9	4	10	455	96	$250	$50	$35 00	$335 00	$2,000
Barrett's	M. B. Barrett	B. B. Harris, N. V. Branch B. F. Wellons.	158	46	1	...	4	3	196	87	100	15	10 00	125 00	800
Berkley	H. H. Butler	No delegate		27	...	...	...	...	27	54	30		10 00	40 00	400
Bethany	J. P. Barrett	Jas. N. Cobb, Jesse T. Harcum	17	29	...	1	...	...	45	36	130		975 63	1105 63	12 00
Bethlehem	E. W. Beale	R. Copeland, D. McClenny, R. W. Nelms.	239	3	1	1	...	...	240	63	150			150 00	1200
Berea (Nans'd)	E. W. Beale.	W. J. Lee, T. R. Gaskins	86		...	...	3	...	83	59	175	40	125 00	340 00	1,400
Berea (Norfolk)	R. C. Tuck	M. Hollowell, M. W. Hall	62	21	2	...	...	2	79	67	50		16 57	66 57	1,000
Cypress	J. T. Kitchen	J. E. Riddick, D. Jones, D. P. Wright.	285	18	...	4	2	1	296	58	150		21 86	171 86	1,800
Damascus	C. J. Ralston	G. J. Costen, John R. Hinton	173		1	3	1	2	166	50	150		4 00	154 00	1,000
Eure's	C. J. Ralston	H. A. Eure	92	30	...	2	1	3	116	110	75		200 00	275 00	800
Hebron	C. J. Ralston	M. H. Holland	174	8	...	...	3	3	176		150			150 00	1,200
Holy Neck	J. P. Barrett	I. W. Everett, P. H. Lee, W. T. Jones.	468	9	8	52	2	2	413	68	200	30	75 00	325 00	1,500
Ivor	J. T. Kitchen	George T. Rawls	36		...	...	...	1	34	50	50	5	12 00	67 00	800

Johnson's Gr've	M. B. Barrett...	J. W. Johnson, R. W. Gate.....	82		...	...	...	7	75	50	75	5		80 00	600	
Liberty.....	No Pastor.....	No delegate.....			...	...	...	...								
Liberty Spring.	C. J. Ralston...	John Byrd, Wm. Rawls	101	16	...	1	1	...	115	127	100		12 00	112 00	1,000	
Mt. Carmel.....	M. B. Barrett...	I. W. Duck, J. H. English, J. C Johnson.	178	33	2	...	1	3	207	84	100	10	18 00	128 00	1,200	
Oakland	E. W. Beale	James E. Pitt.....			...	...	...	...								
Providence.....	J. P. Barrett...	F. W. Tatem, S. A. Etheredge.....	50	2	...	2	...	...	50	40	60		10 00	70 00	1,000	
Sharon.....	H. H. Butler...	P. Duke, W. T. Duke.....	50	9	...	...	...	6	53	63	30		250 00	280 00	700	
Spring Hill.....	J. P. Barrett...	R. T. West, John H. Harris.....	150	6	1	2	...	...	153	40	200	15	15 00	230 00	1,000	
Suffolk..	W. T. Walker.	D. B. Dunbar, J. T. Nurney, J. Lawshe.	167		2	4	1	...	160	126	600	50	150 00	800 00	3,000	
Union.....	J. T. Kitchen..	R. A. Ricks, H. C. Moore.....	120	30	2	1	...	1	146	25	100	5	10 00	115 00	1,000	
Union, Surry...	J. P. Barrett ...	C. W. Whitmore.....		11	...	...	...	...	11	30						
Windsor.....	E. W. Beale....	M. L. Watkins, A. M. Eley.....	21	32	...	...	...	...	53		7500		150000	1575 00	1,500	
			3079	333	26	82	24	44	3247	1277	3200	230 00	345 06	660500	26100	

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

NAME.	CHURCHES IN CHARGE.	Sermons Preached.	Lectures Delivered.	Prayer Meetings Held.	Conversions in Charge.	Pastoral Visits Paid.	Funerals.	Marriages.	SALARY.
M. B. Barrett,	Barrett's, Mt. Carmel, Johnson's Grove,	60	10	20	127	30	15	15	275
J. Pressley Barrett,	Spring Hill, Holy Neck, Bethany, Providence, Union, (Surry)	60	20	—	50	50	5	5	590
E. W. Beale,	Antioch, Bethlehem, Windsor, Berea, Oakland,	80	16	—	43	100	20	31	725
H. H. Butler,	Sharon, Berkley,	78	2	30	16	80	1	—	90
S. S. Barrett,	None,	10	—	—	—	—	5	11	—
J. T. Kitchen,	Union, Cypress, Ivor,	70	—	—	52	100	4	17	300
C. J. Ralston,	Liberty Spring, Hebron, Damascus, Eure's,	100	50	50	85	200	32	36	500
J. N. Manning,	Assisted at Antioch and Windsor.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
R. C. Tuck,	Berea (Norfolk). No report.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
R. H. Holland,	No report.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
R. Rawls,	No report.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
J. U. Newman,	Assisted at Berea, Holy Neck, Sping Hill.	41	5	3	—	40	—	—	135
		499	103	103	373	600	82	115	2615

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference.

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL, CHATHAM COUNTY, N. C.,
Friday, November 14th, 1879.

THE NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met in its fifty-fourth annual session at this place to-day.

Conference was called to order at 11 o'clock A. M., by Rev. J. W. Wellons, President of last session.

Religious exercises were conducted by Rev. W. S. Long.

The following ministers answered to their names:

ELDERS: A. Apple, A. G. Anderson, J. W. Wellons, W. S. Long, W. G. Clements, D. A. Long, W. W. Staley, J. W. Holt, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Pinnix, M. L. Hurley, D. F. Jones, J. W. Hatch, R. G. Tinnen.

LICENTIATES: M. L. Winston, J. T. Ball, J. A. Jones, S. B. Klapp.

The list of churches was called, and found to be represented by lay-delegates as follows:

O'Kelly's Chapel—C. S. Holleman, J. D. Edwards. *New Elam*—Sion Mitchell, Ruffin Holt. *Hines Chapel*—E. D. Hines. *Mt. Bethel*—Not represented. *Liberty Hill*—L. G. Ayscue, W. A. Cunningham. *Pleasant Hill*, (Chat.)—K. F. Way. *Pleasant Grove*—(Va.)—W. D. Mills. *Concord*—G. W. Pinnix. *Christian Chapel*—M. J. Boyd, James Johnson. *Shallow Well*—C. C. Hunt, J. A. Gunter. *Shallow Ford*—Not represented. *Mt. Pisgah*—Not represented. *Pleasant Union*—W. J. Long. *Moore Union*—S. C. McCauley. *New Providence*—Dr. B. A. Sellars, Wm. M. Andrews, J. W. Harden. *Catawba Springs*—J. A. Franks, T. M. Franks. *Mt. Auburn*—Not represented. *Union, (Va.)*—W. H Buntin. *Antioch*—N. A. Dowdy, Wm. Gunter. *Hanks' Chapel*—L. U. Hatch, N. J. Neal. *Pleasant*

Hill, (Johnson.)—Thomas Gregory. *Morrisville*—J. R. Whitehead, J. H. Moring. *Oak Level*—Jos. Pearce, W. T. Young. *Hayes' Chapel*—W. D. Johnson, Samuel Crocker. *Mt. Zion*—John Sharp. *Damascus*—W. N. Pritchard. *Lebanon*—Not represented. *Apple's Chapel*—Not represented. *Good Hope*—David Bragg. *Pope's Chapel*—Joseph Harris, M. C. Winston. *Bethlehem*—Samuel Ireland, Riley Sutton. *Salem Chapel*—Not represented. *Martha's Chapel*—J. H. Horton, Silas Beckwith. *Union*, (N. C.)—J. H. Foster, Robert Fitch. *Wake Chapel*—Benjamin Gardner, J. E. Ballentine. *Bethel*—Not represented. *Reece's Chapel*—Not represented. *Pleasant Grove*, (N. C.)—Not represented. *Liberty School House*—David Huffines. *Zion*—S. P. Morgan, James Deaton. *Mt. Hermon*—James Sanderford, J. J. Flowers. *Hickory Grove*—W. P. Gunter, A. Holt. *Walnut Grove*—Not represented.

Conference then went into the election of a President for the present session, which resulted in the election of Rev. D. A. Long.

Bro. C. S. Holleman was elected Assistant Secretary.

The next business in order was the delivery of the Annual Sermon.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the hour of 12 o'clock M., to-morrow, was set apart for the delivery of the Annual Sermon.

On motion, Rev. P. Greening of the M. E. Church, South, was then invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

Several members of Conference then came forward, rendered excuses for tardiness, and were enrolled.

Rev. W. G. Clements then read a petition from a new church at Hickory Grove, Wake County, N. C., organized upon the principles of the Christian Church, asking admission into this body.

On motion, the church was admitted, and W. P. Gunter and A. Holt were enrolled as delegates from the new church.

Rev. M. L. Winston then read a similar petition from a new church at Walnut Grove, Granville County, N C., which, on motion, was admitted into the Conference.

Rev. M. L. Winston offered the following which was adopted:

That Conference meet each day at 9 o'clock A. M., spend 20 minutes in prayer-meeting, adjourn at 12 M., for preaching; meet again at 2 o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

Dr. W. T. Herndon, of Morrisville, was then invited to a seat in Conference as an honorary member.

On motion, Rev. P. J. Ray, of the M. E. Church, South, was invited to a seat in Conference as an honorary member.

On motion, the Pastor and Delegates from Christian Chapel were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

Rev. W. S. Long moved to amend the Rules of Order so as to require the Standing Committee on Religious Literature to report on the first day of the session; the Committee on Sabbath Schools on the second day; the Committee on Home Missions on the third day; the Committee on Education on the fourth day.

The motion was carried.

Conference then adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

Afternoon Session.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. The President in the chair.

The Committee on Arrangements for District Meetings submitted the following report:

REPORT:

Your committee appointed to arrange for district meetings, ask leave to report the following:

We held meetings with the churches at New Providence, Zion, Hanks' Chapel and Union, Va.

Believing some good was accomplished, and more might have been, if all the brethren had taken hold of the work, we recommend a continuation of this work, hoping the brethren will become more interested in the future.

W. G. CLEMENTS,
J. W. HOLT,
Committee.

The report was discussed by Revs. W. G. Clements, A. G. Anderson, W. W. Staley, J. W. Hatch, J. W. Wellons, M. L. Hurley, and then adopted.

Rev. W. W. Staley moved that a committee of three be appointed to examine the work of the Secretary in writing up the proceedings of this body for the years 1872 to 1878, and recommend what he shall be paid to compensate him for his services. Revs. W. W. Staley, M. L. Hurley and D. F. Jones were appointed the committee.

Several delegates arrived, rendered satisfactory excuses for tardiness, and were enrolled.

On motion, the church letters were called for and handed in.

The Committee on Religious Literature then submitted their report.

On motion, the report was made the special order for to-morrow at 10 o'clock A. M.

On motion, the President appointed J. W. Hatch, J. H. Foster, J. W. Harden to fill vacancies in the Committee on Temperance.

Rev. W. G. Brady, Fraternal Messenger from the Deep River Christian Conference was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member. Bro. Brady made some remarks of fraternal greeting upon taking his seat.

The President then announced Revs. W. G. Clements, C. A. Boon and J. W. Holt a committee on arrangements for District Meetings for the next Conference year.

Conference then went into the selection of a place for holding its next annual session. Bethlehem, Alamance County, N. C., was selected as the place.

Rev. W. G. Clements was then chosen to deliver the Annual Sermon before this body at its next session.

Rev. M. L. Hurley was elected his alternate.

On motion, Conference then adjourned. Religious service by Rev. R. G. Tinnen.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, November 15, 1879.

Conference convened and was called to order by the President. Religious exercises by Rev. A. G. Anderson.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The Secretary then presented an account against the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference in favor of Messrs. Dunbar and Barrett for printing Church Reports. The amount was one dollar and seventy cents.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the Secretary was ordered to draw an order upon the Treasurer for the amount. Motion prevailed, and the amount was paid.

The time for the special order having arrived, the report on Religious Literature was then taken up, and discussed by Revs. J. W. Wellons, J. W. Hatch, J. Pressley Barrett, Dr. W. T. Herndon, Revs. C. J. Ralston, E. W. Beale, after which the report was adopted as follows:

REPORT:

We your committee, beg leave to submit the following report:

1st. That the Press is now the greatest aid to the diffusion of religious teaching. It is able to reach all conditions of people, and especially the young. The country is full of pernicious literature, and the only way to check this great and growing evil is by the dissemination of *good* literature.

2d. That the CHRISTIAN SUN is the only paper that suits our wants. This paper is issued once a week at Suffolk, Va., by Maj. D. B. Dunbar. and Rev.

J. Pressley Barrett. We commend the paper to our Conference, and urge our people to subscribe more liberally to its support.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. STALEY,
JNO. T. BALL,
J. W. HATCH,
Committee.

On motion, the President appointed several persons to canvass the congregation for subscribers to the CHRISTIAN SUN.

On motion, Bro. Ruffin Whitehead was excused from further attendance upon this session of Conference, and Dr. Herndon was put in his place.

On motion, Revs. R. G. Tinnen, J. W. Hatch and Bro. J. W. Sharp were appointed a committee on Church Records.

On motion, Revs. J. P. Barrett and E. W. Beale, Fraternal Messengers from the Eastern Virginia Conference were invited to seats in Conference as deliberative members.

Rev. C. J. Ralston, Fraternal Messenger from the Valley Virginia Conference was also invited to a seat in Conference.

On motion, Rev. Solomon Pool, Fraternal Messenger from the M. E. Church, South, was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

Rev. Mr. Boothe of the Missionary Baptist Church was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

The Secretary then resigned his place on the Educational Committee on account of his numerous duties as Secretary. His resignation was accepted.

The committee on Religious Exercises then reported the following which was adopted:

REPORT:

We, your Committee on Religious Exercises, beg leave to report as follows: Preaching Sunday morning at 11 o'clock A. M., in the house by Rev. D. A. Long, at the school house at the same hour by Rev. W. W. Staley; at 2 o'clock P. M., in the house, Rev. Sol. Pool at the school house at the same hour by Rev. C. J. Ralston; at 11 o'clock A. M., at Buckhorn M. E. Church, South, by Rev. W. S. Long; to-night at Prince's Chapel by Rev. A. Apple, to morrow night at New Elam by Rev. D. A. Long; Monday at 12 o'clock M., in the house by Rev. E. W. Beale.

P. T. KLAPP,
M. J. BOYD,
JAS. JOHNSON,
Committee.

The hour having arrived for the delivery of the Annual Sermon, Conference adjourned to listen to the sermon which was delivered by Rev. J. W. Holt, from Joshua 1:2. Rev. A. Apple closed the services with prayer.

Afternoon Session.

Conference was called to order by the President.

The President then announced Rev. J. W. Pinnix and Rev. M. L. Hurley to fill vacancies in the Committee on Education.

The President also announced Dr. W. T. Herndon and Bro. W. N. Pritchard to fill vacancies in the Committee on Home Missions.

On motion, Rev. S. B. Hoyle of the M. E. Church, South, was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

On motion, C. S. Holleman was elected Treasurer, pro-tem, for this Conference.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools then submitted their report, which was discussed by some of the members, pending which a motion to re-commit was lost. The report was then further discussed and amended, after which it was adopted, as follows:

REPORT:

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following report:

From the statistics which have been furnished us, we have within the bounds of our Conference 28 schools; but, while we are happy thus to report, we are deeply pained that there is not a Sabbath School at each church.

Realizing to some extent our responsibility toward God, and our ability to accomplish a vast amount of good by this work, we would therefore suggest:

1st. That our ministers and laymen do all in their power to establish Sabbath Schools in all of our churches, and at any other points which may be accessible.

2d. That we do all that is possible to increase the interest of the Schools by supplying them with books, tracts, &c.

3d. That we recommend the International System of Sunday School Lessons for the use of our schools.

4th. That we take up monthly collections in our schools for the purpose of purchasing such literature as may be necessary for their welfare.

Lastly, that this report, if adopted, be acted upon to the best of your ability.

Respectfully submitted,

D. F. JONES,
M. L. HURLEY,
W. T. HERNDON,
Committee.

Rev. M. L. Hurley offered the following which was adopted:

Resolved, That this body return a vote of thanks to Rev. J. W. Holt for the very able and instructive sermon delivered before this body at the opening of this session.

On motion, Conference then listened to the Fraternal Greetings of the M. E. Church, South, borne to this body by their messenger, Rev. Solomon Pool. Bro. Pool stated that the relation existing between the body he represented and this body was that of brethren. He submitted remarks encouraging the cultivation of fraternal love.

The President responded to the remarks of Bro. Pool.

On motion, Bro. E. D. Hines was excused from further attendance upon this session of Conference.

On motion, Rev. W. W. Staley was excused from further attendance upon this session of Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. E. W. Beale.

THIRD DAY.

MONDAY, November 17, 1879.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President. Religious exercises by Rev. W. G. Clements.

The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

On motion, Bro. H. C. Vestal, fraternal messenger from the Deep River Conference was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

On motion of J. H. Moring, the Church letters were read.

On motion of A. G. Anderson, Hon. John M. Moring was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

The Committee on Temperance then submitted their report, which was discussed by Revs. J. W. Pinnix, A. G. Anderson, J. T. Ball, A. Apple, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Holt, W. S. Long, D. F. Jones, M. L. Hurley, after which it was amended.

Pending the further discussion Conference adjourned for preaching by Rev. E. W. Beale.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference was called to order by the President.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was taken up and adopted as follows:

REPORT:

For many years past the subject of Temperance has been made the theme of yearly report, by this and other bodies. Yet amid the speeches, resolutions and suggestions, the vigorous and strong efforts of temperance societies, we find from the best information we can gather, that the monster intemperance is sweeping yearly into a drunkards grave eighty-three thousand men, and causing our land and country to be filled with two hundred thousand poor weeping orphans. The excess of evil in this particular cannot well be caleulated. It brings about disputes, crimes and a number of sorrows too tedious to mention. In consideration of the awful and sad effects of this growing sin,

and, feeling it the solemn duty of this body, and all christendom combined, we your committee offer the following for your consideration and adoption:

Whereas, Intemperance is incompatible with the spirit of true and healthful religion, and,

Whereas, Intemperance leads to the ruin of christian character,

Therefore, Resolved, 1st, That no person who is known to use ardent spirits as a beverage shall hold a ministerial license or be ordained by order of this body.

Resolved, 2d, That no church retain nor admit into its membership any person who makes, buys or sells intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. PINNIX,
J. W. HARDEN,
J. H. FOSTER,
J. T. BALL,
J. W. HATCH,
Committee.

The Committee on Church Records then reported the following, which was adopted:

REPORT:

We have examined the records of only four churches, viz: Hayes' Chapel, New Providence, Shallow Ford and Pleasant Hill (Chat.), all of which are kept in tolerably good order. That of New Providence excellent.

R. G. TINNEN,
J. W. SHARP,
J. W. HATCH,
Committee.

On motion, the President was appointed to go to the church at Pleasant Hill (Chat.), and try to adjust a difficulty in that church which was made the subject of appeal to this body by that church.

The treasurer submitted a report which was referred to a Committee on Finance, consisting of Rev. J. W. Hatch, Rev. J. W. Harden and Rev. W. S. Long. The report was adopted as follows:

REPORT:

The undersigned, Treasurer of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference, respectfully submits this his Annual Report:

During and since the last session of this Conference, he has received funds as follows.

For Home Missions	$219 24
Amount received from M. L. Winston, Treasurer "Old Home Missionary Society."	177 62
Am't received from James W. Wellons from sale of Newbern Church..	82 00
Interest at 4 per cent. to November 1, 1879	12 90
Total amount	$491 76

The above amount is now on deposit in the State National Bank, Raleigh, and is drawing 4 per cent. interest. This is the best that your Treasurer could do by way of interest, and keep the money on call; indeed it was some months before he was able to make the deposit on these terms.

Respectfully submitted,

A. MORING,
Treasurer N. C. & Va. Conference.

Rev. M. L. Hurley then submitted the following report which was adopted:

REPORT:

Your committee appointed to examine the transcript of the minutes from the year 1872 to the year 1878 inclusive, beg leave to report as follows:

1st. We have not and will not be able to finish the review of the manuscript during the sitting of this body, and therefore ask to be allowed till the next session to report.

2d. We recommend that Rev. J. W. Holt, who has done this work, be paid fifteen dollars ($15.00) for the same, with the understanding that Bro. Holt is to rectify all mistakes which may occur.

M. L. HURLEY,
D. F. JONES,
Committee.

On motion, Bros. Huffines and Johnson, Dr. Sellars and Rev. S. B. Klapp were excused from further attendance upon this session of Conference.

Rev. A. G. Anderson offered the following resolution which was adopted.

Resolved, That measures be taken by Conference to raise funds for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of Revs. Alfred Iseley, T. J. Fowler and Josiah McCulloch.

The Committee on Home Missions then submitted their report, which was discussed by Dr. W. T. Herndon, Revs. C. J. Ralston, J. P. Barrett, and then adopted as follows:

REPORT:

The committee on Home Missions has pursued the plan for raising Missionary funds that was recommended at the last session of this body, known as the bond system. These bonds are held by local agents of the different churches, whose duty it is to get bonds filled, collect the amounts falling due, and forward the same to the Treasurer of Conference at its annual meetings. The result of our labors according to this plan is as follows:

O'Kelly's Chapel, $29.50; New Elam, $13.75; Hines' Chapel, $4.35; Pleasant Hill (Chatham), $1.25; Christian Chapel, $6.75; Shallow Well, $16.00; New Providence, $12.75; Catawba Spring, $16.50; Hanks' Chapel, $25.35; Morrisville, $10.50; Oak Level, $3.75; Hayes' Chapel, $6.50; Damascus, $18.85; Apple's Chapel, $4.00; Pope's Chapel, $11.25; Wake Chapel, $14.70; Zion, $13.10; Pleasant Grove, (Va.), 75; Bethlehem, $1; collection, $14.35. Total, $202.10; added to $393.73 in the hands of the Treasurer, making $591.16 in his hands.

The following churches have reported nothing: Mt. Bethel, Liberty Hill, Shallow Ford, Concord, Mt. Pisgah, Pleasant Union, Moore Union, Mt. Auburn, Union, Va., Antioch, Pleasant Hill, (J). Mt. Zion, Lebanon, Good Hope, Bethlehem, Martha's Chapel, Union (N. C.), Bethel, Reece's Chapel, Pleasant Grove (N. C.), Liberty Schoolhouse, Mt. Hermon.

We are very sorry indeed that so many churches seem to manifest so little interest in the great work of Missions. We hope the ministers will endeavor to arouse our brethren and sisters on this subject. We think the present system for mission work a very good one, and hope it will be followed in future.

We also recommend that a Children's Missionary Society be organized in every church, each child paying one cent a week for mission purposes.

Reece's Chapel, Bethel, Pleasant Grove, N. C., and Midway have had no pastors.

W. G. CLEMENTS,
P. T. KLAPP,
W. T. HERNDON,
W. N. PRITCHARD,
Committee.

The Conference then ordered a collection to be taken up for the benefit of Home Missions.

Hon. John M. Moring, appointed at the last session of this body fraternal messenger to the North Carolina Conference of the M. E. Church, South, then gave an account of his visit to that body, which he stated was very pleasant in every respect. Bro. Moring also read a letter of fraternal greeting from Rev. M. L. Wood, a fraternal messenger of the M. E. Church, appointed to attend this session of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference.

Conference then proceeded to elect fraternal messengers as follows: To Eastern Virginia Conference, Rev. W. G. Clements, J. T. Ball, J. W. Wellons.

To M. E. Conference, Revs. D. A. Long, J. W. Wellons, J. W. Holt.

To Deep River Conference, Revs. J. W. Hatch, W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons.

To Valley Virginia Conference, Revs. J. W. Holt, D. T. Deans, J. W. Wellons.

To M. P. Conference, Revs. W. W. Staley, W. S. Long, J. W. Pinnix.

To Michigan State Christian Conference, Rev. D. A. Long.

On motion, Conference ordered the proceedings of this body to be printed in the Christian Annual.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Religious exercises by Rev. M. L. Winston.

FOURTH DAY.

Tuesday, November 18, 1879.

Conference convened and was called to order by the President. Religious exercises by Rev. J. W. Hatch.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The Secretary then stated to the Conference that the church at Good Hope, Granville County, North Carolina, was in bad

repute, and asked the Conference to take steps to look after the church at Good Hope.

In answer to a question by the Secretary, the President stated that testimony may be taken against an accused member of a church from witnesses outside of the church, provided they are reliable persons; but that no church can require such persons to come to the church and testify if they decline to do so.

On motion, Rev. A. Apple and the deacons from Oak Level and Pope's Chapel were appointed a committee to go to Good Hope and investigate the workings of that church.

On motion of Rev. J. W. Holt, the reports of the deacons in the different Pastorates as to their arrangements for Pastors next year, were called for and read. The following arrangements were reported:

Pastorate	No.	1.	To	be	supplied	by	Rev.	D. F. Jones.
"	"	2.	"	"	"	"	"	M. L. Hurley.
"	"	3.						
"	"	4.	"	"	"	"	"	A. G. Anderson.
"	"	5.	"	"	"	"	"	J. W. Pinnix.
"	"	6.	"	"	"	"	"	W. S. Long.
"	"	7.	"	"	"	"	"	J. W. Holt.
"	"	8.	"	"	"	"	"	W. G. Clements.
"	"	9.	"	"	"	"	"	J. A. Jones.
"	"	10.						
"	"	11.	"	"	"	"	"	P. T. Klapp.

The Committee on Education then handed in their report which was discussed by Revs. D. A. Long (after calling Rev. P. T. Klapp to the chair), J. P. Barrett, C. J. Ralston, P. T. Klapp, W. S. Long, after which the report was adopted as follows:

REPORT:

The Educational Committee report as follows:

James Madison Rollins, a member of the Christian Church at Christian Chapel, Chatham County, N. C., presented himself as a candidate for admission into the Biblical Class. He was admitted into the class, after a careful examination, with instructions to continue in the school now in charge of Rev. W. G. Clements, who will report his conduct, proficiency and application to the Committee.

Licentiate M. L. Winston, was carefully examined on all the studies required by our Form of Government. On motion, it was decided that Bro. M. L. Winston be recommended to continue his studies and to labor as a licentiate.

Bro. John D. Wicker, member at Zion, came before the committee and was admitted into the Biblical Class with the understanding that he would continue in school.

Bro. Wm. Gunter, member of the church at Antioch was also admitted into the Biblical Class.

We recommend that this Conference, in connection with the other Conferences of the Convention, make an effort to establish a Theological Seminary.

We recommend the payment of the money ($164), yet due Rev. W. S. Long for the education of Biblical Students.

Licentiates, J. T. Ball, J. A. Jones and S. B. Klapp were with the committee at different times. They were encouraged to pursue their studies in order that they might soon receive Elders orders.

We suggest 1st. That we do all in our power to circulate educational literature among our people, provide for public addresses on education at different points when deemed advisable, and co-operate with the Graham High School and other schools among us, in educating the masses of our people.

2d. That our Pastors search out from among the churches, such intelligent and pious young men as aspire to the work of the ministry.

D. A. LONG, CHAIRMAN.

M. L. HURLEY, *Secretary.*

Rev. M. L. Hurley then submitted the following resolution which was adopted :

Resolved, That Hon. John M. Moring be directed to take such steps as are necessary to sell the lot belonging to the Christian Church in Graham, Alamance County, N. C. To sell the same to the highest cash bidder, and pay the money into the hands of the Treasurer at his earliest convenience.

Resolved, 2d. That he be directed to sell the Church at Reece's Chapel, Charlotte County, Va., to the highest cash bidder and pay the money into the hands of the Treasurer at his earliest convenience.

Resolved, 3d. That he be allowed 15 per cent. of all the money received as a compensation for his services.

Ministerial Reports were then called for and read :

A. G. Anderson, A. Apple, C. A. Boon, W. G. Clements, J. N. Farrell, W. H. Franks, J. W. Hatch, H. B. Hayes, J. W. Holt, M. L. Hurley, D. F. Jones, P. T. Klapp, W. S. Long, D. A. Long, J. W. Pinnix, J. W. Wellons, John T. Ball, A. F. Iseley, J. A. Jones, S. B. Klapp, M. L. Winston, R. C. Tuck.

The following were put into the hands of the Executive Committee to inquire why they have not reported :

Chastien Allen, P. W. Allen, Solomon Apple, D. T. Deanes, W. W. Staley, R. G. Tinnen.

The Executive Committee then reported the following which was adopted :

REPORT:

Several matters have been brought to the consideration of the Chairman of the Committee during the year, but not of sufficient magnitude in his judgment to call a meeting of the Committee, and therefore they have not held a meeting nor transacted any business during the year.

J. W. WELLONS,
W. S. LONG,
W. G. CLEMENTS,
Committee.

The President then announced the following Standing Committees :

Education—W. S. Long, A. G. Anderson, S. Apple, W. W. Staley.

Home Missions—W. G. Clements, Dr. W. T. Herndon, M. L. Hurley, P. T. Klapp, J. W. Hatch, J. W. Harden.

Religious Literature—J. W. Wellons, R. G. Tinnen, A. Apple, W. D. Mills.

Sunday Schools—J. W. Pinnix, M. L. Winston, J. H. Moring, Dr. B. A. Sellars.

Temperance—C. A. Boon, D. F. Jones, J. T. Ball, A. F. Iseley, S. B. Klapp.

Executive Committee—W. S. Long, W. W. Staley, A. G. Anderson, S. Apple.

On motion, the rules requiring Conference to adjourn at 12 o'clock M., were indefinitely suspended.

Conference then ordered a collection to be taken up for the purpose of paying Rev. J. W. Holt, for his work in writing up the proceedings of this body for seven years past, as recommended by a special committee.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to draw an order on the Treasurer for the amount of $15.00 to be paid to Rev. J. W. Holt, for copying proceedings of this body.

The act of the General Assembly of North Carolina incorporating this body under the name of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference was then read, and was, on motion, accepted ; and this body then organized under said Act, under the name aforesaid. The officers of this body who had been elected under the Form of Government were continued as the officers of the incorporated body. The various committees of the body were also continued.

The Conference then on motion, adopted the "Declaration of Principles and Form of Government," as the Ly-laws and Rules for the Government of this body.

On motion, the Secretary was ordered to provide a seal for this body and draw on the Treasurer for the costs of the same, who is directed to pay the same out of any money in his hands not otherwise appropriated.

On motion, Hon. John M. Moring was instructed to attend to the incorporation of that part of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference lying in the State of Virginia.

On motion, Conference tendered a vote of thanks to the people in the community of Christian Chapel who have entertained the members of this body during its sitting. Also to the various railroads for passing members of Conference for half fare.

Fraternal messengers appointed at last session were then called upon to give an account of their visits to the sister Conferences.

On motion of Bro. C. S. Holleman, Rev. Bro. Churchhill of the Missionary Baptist Church, was invited to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

Hon. John M. Moring, from a Special Committee, then submitted the following report, which was discussed by Hon. John M. Moring, Revs. J. W. Wellons, D. A. Long, W. S. Long, J. W. Holt, after which the report was adopted as follows:

REPORT:

To the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference:

The undersigned, a majority of the committee appointed by your body to superintend the sale of the Church at Newbern, repectfully submit this their final report.

At the session of your body in the year 1874, at Hanks' Chapel, James W. Wellons was appointed to go to Newbern as soon as possible and sell the building and grounds for cash, and turn over the same to Bro. W. S. Long for Missionary services to be performed in Western North Carolina. At the first opportunity the property was bargained to the colored people for the sum of $325.00 which was the best offer that could be obtained.

They, however, failed to comply, and the property was therefore sold to Rev. E. M. Forbes for the sum of $350.00. A new trouble now arose, as the colored people who were in possession refused to surrender to Mr. Forbes. Upon this report being made to your body, at its session at Pope's Chapel, in the year 1875, Daniel A. Long and John M. Moring were appointed to assist the Chairman in the management of the matter and in accordance with the recommendation of Conference, Green & Stevenson, Attorneys at Newbern, were employed to advise your committee in the premises.

At length in the month of January, in the year 1877, the chairman of this committee visited Newbern and succeeded in compromising the difficulty by paying to the colored claimants the sum of $137.50, leaving a balance in hands of the chairman of $212.50; of this amount he has applied $113.65 in paying his actual expenses, costs and attorneys fees; has paid over $82.00, to A. Moring, Treasurer of your body, and which is now deposited in Bank with the Home Mission fund of this Conference; and still has in his hands the sum of $16.85. The chairman of the committee did all the work in this matter except a limited portion of the correspondence, and incurred personally all the expenses connected therewith.

In every thing, however, the other members of the committee were consulted as far as practicable. The final report of your committee was delayed by a notice given to the chairman some time after the adjustment in January 1877, not to pay over the money on hand as there would be litigation in regard to the matter.

Your committee is now informed, however, that the purchaser of the property is in quiet possession, and nothing now remains except for your body to take final action in regard to the proceeds of sale of said property.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. WELLONS,
JNO. M. MORING,
Committee.

On motion, Conference decided that the amount in the Treasurer's hands as the proceeds of the Newbern Church property (eighty-two dollars) be paid over to Rev. W. S. Long for mis-

sionary labors performed in Western North Carolina by him according to a previous order of this body.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to draw an order upon the Treasurer for eighty-two dollars in favor of Rev. W. S. Long.

On motion, Conference allowed Rev. J. W. Wellons to retain the sixteen dollars eighty-five cents in his hands as a remuneration for his services in settling the difficulty attending the sale of the Newbern Church property.

On motion, Conference took a recess for forty-five minutes.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met, and was called to order by the President.

On motion, the Treasurer be required to give bond for the funds in his hands. Bond to be passed upon by the Executive Committee in the absence of the sitting of Conference.

On motion, the President was added to the Educational Committee. The Committee on Finance then reported the following which was adopted:

REPORT:

Your Committee on Finance ask leave to report:

The Treasurer's report has been referred to us, and after giving it careful consideration find that the Treasurer had on deposit during the year $3.49 more than was reported last year. This amount was paid in after the adjournment of this body. In all other respects his report is correct.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. HATCH,
J. W. HARDEN,
W. S. LONG,
Committee.

On motion of Rev. M. L. Hurley, Conference adjourned to meet with the Church at Bethlehem, Alamance County, N. C., on Friday before the 3d Sunday in November 1880 at 11 o'clock, A. M. Religious exercises by Rev. A. Apple.

D. A. LONG, PRESIDENT.

J. W. HOLT, *Secretary.*
C. S. HOLLEMAN, *Assistant Secretary.*

Ministerial Reports.

Rev. W. G. Clements—Had pastoral charge of O'Kelly's Chapel, Morrisville, Wake Chapel and Catawba. Preached 120 times; received 52 into the Church.

Rev. W. S. Long—Had charge of Union (N. C.), Hanks' Chapel, Damascus and Hayes' Chapel.

Rev. J. W. Wellons—Traveled as Evangelist in Virginia and North Carolina. Preached 199 sermons; had 211 accessions, baptized 72.

Rev. John T. Ball—Without any special charge. Worked in protracted meetings and lectured on temperance.

Rev. D. A. Long—Had the pastoral charge of New Providence and been Principal of Graham High School.

Rev. J. W. Pinnix—Preached at Shady Grove, Pelham and other places. Taught school at Shady Grove Academy.

Rev. A. S. Iseley—Had charge of Pleasant Hill (Chatham), and preached at three other places monthly.

Rev. C. A. Boon—Had pastoral charge of Martha's Chapel.

Rev. A. G. Anderson—Preached at Concord, Apples' Chapel and Bethlehem.

Rev. P. T. Klapp—Had charge of Shallow Well, Zion, Christian Chapel and preached also at Poplar Branch. Had 60 converts, 41 accessions.

Rev. R. C. Tuck—Laboring in bounds of Eastern Virginia Conference.

Rev. M. L. Winston—Had charge of Walnut Grove.

Rev. J. W. Hatch—Had charge of Antioch and Moore Union.

Rev. W. H. Franks—Had charge of Pleasant Union and Pleasant Hill (Jn).

Rev. J. N. Farrell—Laboring in Texas.

Rev. H. B. Hayes—Too feeble to work.

Rev. J. W. Holt—Had charge of Good Hope, Oak Level, Pope's Chapel and Liberty Hill. Preached 113 times, held 4 protracted meetings and helped in five others.

Rev. D. F. Jones—Had charge of Salem Chapel, Mt. Bethel, Hines' Chapel. Preached monthly at 5 other points part of the year.

Rev. M. L. Hurley—Had charge of Union, Va., and Mt. Auburn.

Rev. J. A. Jones—Had charge of Mt. Hermon and New Elim. Received 56 members.

Rev. S. B. Klapp—Preached at Antioch.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	No. of Members reported last session.	Received since.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Expelled.	No. present membership.	Sunday Schools	Connected with Sunday Sch'ls.	Amount Paid Pastor.	For Other Purposes.	Total amount Paid.	Value of Ch'ch Property.
O'Kiley's Chapel	W. G. Clements	115	16	3	1		125	1	68	$115 00	$ 40 00	$ 155 00	$ 500 00
New Elam	J. A. Jones	107	15	1	1		120	1	89	32 00	17 98	49 98	600 00
Hine's Chapel	D. F. Jones	86	5	1	1		88	1	50	54 95	8 55	63 50	400 00
Mt. Bethel		53		...	...			...					
Liberty Hill	J. W. Holt	79	3	2	2		75	1	81	43 00		43 00	
Pleasant Hill, (Chatham)	A. F. Iseley	115	5	...	2	3	115	...		38 00	15 00	53 00	
Pleasant Grove, (Va.)	W. T. Walker	107	2	2	...		107	1	47	200 00		200 00	2000 00
Concord	A. G. Anderson	52	7	...	...	2	58	...		13 15		13 15	200 00
Christian Chapel	P. T. Klapp	189	2	3	1	3	180	1	87	100 00	25 00	125 00	800 00
Shallow Well	P. T. Klapp	158	37	1	...	3	176	1	89	100 00	33 25	133 25	1500 00
Shallow Ford	D. F. Jones	93		1	...		92	1	49	32 00	415 45	447 45	700 00
Mt. Pisgah		28		...	...			...					
Pleasant Union	W. H. Franks.			1	...	1	54	...					
Moore Union	J. W Hatch	33	2	4	...		34	1	25	16 00		16 00	300 00
New Providence	D. A. Long	389	3	1	...	1	337	1	70	200 00	339 00	539 00	3000 00
Catawba Springs	W. G. Clements	91	8	4	3	1	84	...		75 00	20 00	95 00	300 00
Mt. Auburn		145		...	...			...					
Union (Va.)	M. L. Hurley	194	18	...	2	1	175	3	212	100 00		100 00	1000 00
Antioch	J. W. Hatch	69	4	...	...		72	...		25 00	51 80	76 80	325 00
Banks' Chapel	W. S. Long	173	27	3	...		197	1	44	120 00	27 00	147 00	400 00
Pleasant Hill (Johnson)	W. H. Franks	69	1	1	...	1	69	...		13 60		13 00	
Morrisville	W. G. Clements	19	2	...	1		20	...		50 00	10 00	60 00	500 00
Oak Level	J. W. Holt	63		3	2	1	57	...		124 30	2 59	126 89	1000 00
Hayes' Chapel	W. S. Long	108	16	8	1	1	111	1	31	65 40		65 40	300 00
Mt. Zion	W. W. Staley			...	...		24	...		32 00	2 50	34 50	300 00
Damascus	W. S. Long	86	10	2	...		112	1	60	75 00	50 00	125 00	800 00
Lebanon				...	...			...					

Apple's Chapel	A. G. Anderson	192	15	...	1		202	...		33 50		33 50	300 00
Good Hope		59		...	...			...					
Pope's Chapel	J. W. Holt	203	2	8	5	6	185	1	56	87 10	2 00	89 10	1500 00
Bethlehem	A. G. Anderson	152	10	4	...		160	...			8 40		900 00
Salem Chapel	D. F. Jones	133	13	1	2		143	1	97	51 25	2 90	66 08	600 00
Martha's Chapel	C. A. Boon	33	28	...	...		60	1	54	38 85	14 00	56 85	500 00
Union (N. C.)	W. S. Long	268		2	3		263	...		100 00	17 89	117 88	1800 00
Wake Chapel	W. G. Clements	165	14	14	3	2	160	...		80 00	25 00	105 00	500 00
Bethel				...	..			...					
Reece's Chapel				...	...			...					
Pleasant Grove (N. C.)				...	...			...					
Liberty School House	D. T. Deanes	40	1	...	1	4	37	...		21 23		21 23	
Zion	P. T. Klapp	151	13	2	2	1	149	1	68	64 09	33 10	97 19	400 00
Mt. Hermon	J. A. Jones	13	41	...	2		52	1	59	35 00	10 00	45 00	600 00
Hickory Grove	W. G. Clements			...	...			...					
Walnut Grove	M. L. Winston			...	..		15	1	32	16 25		23 25	
		40 30	320	72	36	31	39 08	22	1368	2151 07	1117 41	3335 00	21225 00

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

EASTERN VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

HOLY NECK, Nansemond County, Va., Friday, March 28th, 1879.

According to previous announcement the Eleventh Annual Session of the Sunday School Convention of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference met here to-day in connection with the District Meeting. Rev. E. W. Beale, Superintendent of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, the Vice President of the last session of the Convention called the meeting to order and conducted the Introductory Religious Exercises.

The following officers were present:

VICE-PRESIDENT—Rev. E. W. Beale.

SECRETARY—R. H. Rawles.

The following ministers and delegates were enrolled:

Ministers—J. P. Barrett, M. B. Barrett, E. W. Beale, R. H. Holland, J. T. Kitchen, J. N. Manning, C. J. Ralston.

Delegates—Antioch—Joseph A. Barrett, D. W. Carr.

Berea—Thomas R. Gaskins, W. J. Lee.

Hebron—M. H. Holland, W. J. Whitehead.

Holy Neck—John Oberry, P. H. Lee, W. T. Jones, I. W. Everett.

Liberty Spring—R. T. Rawles, Charles Byrd.

Mt. Carmel—I. W. Duck, Geo. M. D. Watkins, V. W. Stephens, C. W. Bailey, Joseph J. Johnson.

Spring Hill—R. T. West.

Hollands—

Suffolk—Dr. F. W. Tatem, R. H. Rawles, W. W. Ballard, Prof. P. J. Kernodle.

Ivor—George T. Rawles.
Providence—S. A. Etheridge.
Sharon—John K. Abbott, F. M. Sawyer.
Bethany—J. W. McGee.

A communication was received from Rev. J. T. Whitley tendering his resignation as President of the Convention which was unanimously accepted.

A communication was received from Thomas J. Kilby, treasurer of the Convention, expressing his regret at not being able to attend on account of illness in his family. His excuse was accepted, and the secretary instructed to attend to his (the treasurer's) duties.

Rev. J. N. Manning, of Portsmouth, was then introduced, and delivered a masterly address on "The Aim and Power of the Sunday School."

The Convention then took a recess for dinner.

Afternoon Session.

At 2:30 P. M., the Convention assembled and was called to order by the President.

On motion, Rev. J. T. Kitchen, Prof. P. J. Kernodle and Bro. I. W. Duck were appointed a Committee on Finance.

The Sunday School at Providence School, Nansemond County, with Bro Allen Daughtry as Superintendent, applied for admission, and was received into the Convention. The delegates elected, J. T. Rawls and D. B. Rawls, were duly recognized and invited to seats in the Convention.

A communication containing many interesting statistics was received from a very flourishing Sunday School at Clear View, Nansemond County, Va., stating that the school had no official connection with any religious denomination, and asking that its messengers be allowed to take seats in this body as deliberative members.

On motion of Rev. J. N. Manning, the Superintendent of the said school Bro. Dempsey Babb, and the messengers were invited to seats in the Convention according to their request.

The President then introduced Rev. J. T. Kitchen, who delivered an able and matter-of-fact address on "The Secret of a Successful Pastorate."

Reports were then read from the following Schools:

Antioch, Berea, Hebron, Holy Neck, Liberty Spring, Mt. Carmel, Spring Hill, Suffolk, Ivor, Providence, Sharon, Bethany, Providence Nansemond County, Virginia. These reports show a membership of about fourteen hundred scholars, and that the Sabbath School cause is progressing both in numbers and interest throughout the bounds of the entire Convention.

The Convention then joined in singing, after which the President introduced Rev. C. J. Ralston, who proceeded in an earnest

and interesting manner to deliver an address on "The Parents Work in the Sunday School."

The benediction was then pronounced, and the Convention adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, March 29, 1879.

The Convention assembled at 10 o'clock this morning and was called to order by the President. After religious exercises the roll was called and a quorum being present, the President announced that the meeting was ready for business.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved, after being corrected by inserting the fact that Bro. A. M. Eley, of the Sunday School at Windsor, had been invited to a seat in the body as a deliberative member.

The Convention then went into the election of the Executive Committee with the following result: J. R. Baker, F. W. Tatem and D. B. Dunbar. (The President and Secretary of the Convention are ex-officio members of the Committee).

The Secretary then by permission requested the schools that had not paid their assessments to do so at once, so that the Finance Committee could audit the report of the treasurer.

Bro. Richard Copeland Superintendent of the School at Bethlehem came in and took his seat.

The hour for discussion having arrived, the President introduced Dr. F. W. Tatem who discussed "The Influence of Early Impressions." His speech contained many interesting and beautiful thoughts and was listened to with marked attention.

Bro. T. J. Clements a delegate from Antioch came in and took his seat.

Bro. H. H. Butler was then introduced, and proceeded eloquently to discuss the last named subject, after which Rev. E. W. Beale the Superintendent of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute in a logical manner presented the claims of the Institute and set forth its work in our Conference. His effort was decidedly the ablest ever made in behalf of this flourishing school, and will undoubtedly result in increasing its prosperity to a very great extent.

The next subject named in the programme, was "What a Church Ought to do for its Pastor?" which Rev. M. B. Barrett discussed for half an hour in his usual happy and entertaining style.

(1) Ought to pray for him. (2) To sympathize with him. (3) To visit him. (4) To love him. (5) To co-operate with him. (6) To support him.

He was followed by Dr. F. W. Tatem, who said that as he was a layman, he would not feel the same delicacy in pressing some

of the points mentioned as the speaker who preceded him. He insisted strongly that one of the greatest duties the Church owed its pastor was a comfortable and liberal support.

Bro. John Oberry stated that he agreed to all that had been said upon the subject "What a Church Ought to do for its Pastor," and he would be very glad if some speaker would discuss the subject, "What a Pastor ought to do for his Church?"

Bro. C. J. Ralston was called upon and responded.

At this point the President announced to Rev. E. W. Beale, that he was authorized by Bros. P. H. Lee and John Oberry, as trustees of the Holy Neck Female Seminary, on behalf of themselves, and the other trustees, to present to him for the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, a piano. Bro. Beale accepted the gift in a heartfelt and thankful speech.

At 12:15 P. M., the President of the Convention Rev. J. P. Barrett announced as his theme, the very important subject: "Missions a Means to an End." He contended that in order to the successful up-building of our religious and denominational enterprises, the mission work was an absolute necessity.

At the conclusion a collection was raised for the Bethany Mission.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the earnest and heartfelt thanks of this Convention are eminently due and are hereby willingly tendered to Bros. P. H. Lee and John Oberry as trustees of the Holy Neck Female Seminary for their elegant and useful gift to the Suffolk Collegiate Institute."

Afternoon Session.

At 2:30 P. M., the Convention assembled, and was called to order by the President. A short time was spent in religious worship.

Reports were then read from the following schools:

Bethlehem, Holland's and Union.

Rev. J. T. Kitchen then addressed the Convention on "Our Church Paper and its Work," and during his speech referred pathetically to the former editors of the Christian Sun, and especially to the lamented Dr. W. B. Wellons.

He was followed by Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, the editor of the Christian Sun, who presented the claims of his paper, and concluded by soliciting subscriptions.

The report of the Finance Committee including the report of the treasurer was received and adopted.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we fully appreciate the kind and courteous hospitality extended to the members and visitors of this Convention by the members and friends of the Church at this place and that we hereby tender our thanks to them for the same.

"The Prayer-meeting as it affects the Church and the Sunday-

school," was then discussed by Rev. R. H. Holland and Rev. M. B. Barrett.

By permission Rev. J. N. Manning explained the nature of and presented the claims of the organization known as the Christian Brotherhood.

The Convention then adjourned.

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, PRESIDENT.

R. H. RAWLES, *Secretary*.

Places of Meeting of the Conferences in 1880.

Eastern Virginia.—Bethany, Southampton County, Va., November 3.
Virginia Valley.—Linville, Rockingham County, Va., August 26.
North Carolina.—Bethlehem, Alamance County, N. C., November 19.
Deep River.—Pleasant Grove, Randolph County, N. C., October 7.
Georgia and Alabama.—Providence, Red Hill, Stewart County, Georgia, October 1.

OUR CHURCH ORGAN.

The Christian Sun is the acknowledged organ of the several Conferences composing the General Convention. It is published weekly at $2 a year by Dunbar & Barrett, Suffolk, Va.

OUR SCHOOLS.

The Suffolk Collegiate Institute, Suffolk, Va. *Faculty:* Rev. E. W. Beale, Superintendent; Prof. P. J. Kernodle, A.M., Principal; Prof. V. S. Kilby, Associate; Mrs. L. H. Quimby, Lady Assistant· Miss Fanny L. Colvin, Music; Rev. W. T. Walker, Biblical Literature.

The Graham High School, Graham, N. C. *Faculty:* Rev. D. A. Long, A.M., Principal; Rev. W. S. Long, A.M.; Rev. W. W. Staley, A.M.; Prof. David Bell.

These schools are receiving a very liberal support and are in a most prosperous condition.

THE OUTLOOK.

Our organization was never more thrifty than at present. Our educational and missionary interests are full of vitality and bid fair to do for the cause graat good. Of late many new churches have been established, and four-fifths of the Conferences composing the General Convention are more thoroughly organized and working more systematically than at any previous time in our history. The fields are white already to harvest, while the reapers are few, we have quite a number of young men of promise preparing to enter the field as workmen.

OUR CHRONOLOGY.

Secession of Rev. James O'Kelly, and about thirty other ministers from the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Baltimore, November 1st, 1792.

Organization and adoption of the name Christian, to the exclusion of all other names, in a Conference held in Surry County, Va., August 4, 1794.

James O'Kelly died in Chatham County, N. C., October 16, 1826, aged 92 years.

Eastern Virginia Conference organized at Holy Neck, Nansemond Bounty, in May 1817.

The North Carolina and Virginia Conference organized in 1825.

Deep River Conference organized in 1864.

Virginia Valley Conference organized in August 1868.

Georgia and Alabama Conference organized in 1854.

The North Carolina Colored Conference organized in November 1866. The first Conference composed wholly of colored persons, organized in the South.

The CHRISTIAN SUN commenced at Hillsborough, N. C., January 1, 1843, Rev. D. W. Kerr, Editor.

Southern Christian Association organized at Good Hope, Granville County, N. C., April 7, 1847.

A monument raised over the grave of Rev. James O'Kelly, October 15, 1854.

The Southern Christian General Convention organized at Union, Alamance County, N. C., September 30, 1856.

General Convention of the Christian Church organized at Mt. Auburn, Warren County, N. C., May 2, 1866.

A Declaration of Principles, Form of Government and Directory for Worship devised in 1866, endorsed by the Conferences of that year and ratified in an extra Session of the Convention, held at Mt. Auburn, Warren County, N. C., May 1, 1867.

Rev. W. B. Wellons, D.D., died February 16, 1877, in Suffolk, Va., having been the most useful man in the organization for 25 years.

Ministerial Directory.

ELDERS.

Albright, H. A.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Allen, Chastien.....Oxford, N. C.
Allen, P. W.....Oxford, N. C.
Anderson, A. G.Anderson's Store, N.C.
Apple, Alfred.....Red Bank, Va.
Apple, Solomon.....Milton, N. C.
Ausley, J. B.....Ballentine's Mills. N C.
Barrett, S. S.....Norfolk (Berkley) Va.
Barrett, M. B.....Ivor, Va.
Barrett, J. Pressley.....Suffolk, Va.
Beale, E. W.....Suffolk, Va.
Boon, C. A.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Brown, W. R. Kemps' Mills, N. C.
Brady, W. G.....Pittsborough, N. C.
Burrow John Wedowee, Ala.
Butler, H. H.....Norfolk [Berkley] Va.
Clements, W. G.....Old Shop, N. C.
Cofield, Lewis.....Wedowee, Ala.
Craven, W. M.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Deans, D. T.....Edom, Va.
Elder, J D.....Milltown, Ala.
Elder, T. H.....Milltown, Ala.
Farrell, J. N Happy Home, N. C.
Franks, W. H.....Raleigh, N. C.
Greggs, C. W.....Wedawee, Ala.
Hatch, Jno. W..... Pittsborough, N. C
Hayes, H. B.....Raleigh, N. C.
Holland, R. H.....Carrsville, Va.
Holt, J. W.....Company Shops, N. C.
Hurley, M. L.....Red Bank, Va.
Hurst, G. M.....Milnor, Ala.
Jones D. F.....Pacific, N. C.
Kitchen, J. T.....Franklin, Va.
Klapp, P. T.....Sanford, N. C.
Lawrence, J. S.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Lawrence, W. W...Brower's Mills, N. C.
Long, W. S.....Graham, N. C.
Long, D. A.....Graham, N. C.
Manning, J. N.....Portsmouth, Va.
Neese, J. L Roanoke, Ala.
Nelson, A. S.....Big Oak, N. C.
Pinnix, J. W...Anderson's Store, N. C.
Rawls, Robert.....Ivor, Va.
Ralston, C. J.....Nurneysville, Va.
Smith, Jubilee.....Richland, Ga.
Sorrell, M. J.....West Point, Ga.
Staley, W. W.....Graham, N. C.
Tinnen, R. G.....Cedar Grove, N. C.
Tuck, R. C.....Norfolk, Va.
Walker, W. T.....Suffolk, Va.
Wellons, J. W.....Franklinton, N. C.
Williams, J. C.....Edom, Va

LICENTIATES.

Ball, J. T.....Raleigh, N. C.
Hamilton, C. J.....Roanoke, Ala.
Humble, P. P.....Marley's Mills, N. C.
Iseley, A. F.....Shallow Ford, N. C.
Jones, J. A.....Ballentine's Mills, N. C.
Klapp, S. B.....Egypt, N. C.
Manning, W. J.....Milltown, Ala.
McLeod, D. B.....Troy, N. C.
Moffitt H. T.....Moffitt's Mills, N. C.
Newman, J. U.....Suffolk, Va.
Scott, John A.....Raleigh, N. C.
Way, S. H.....Brown's Store, N. C.
Winston, M. L.....Mt. Energy, N C.
Wheeler, J.....Louisia, Ala.